STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT REGARDING THE PROCEDURE FOR DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

PRESIDENT: Under Rule 69, the debate on the budget will begin with a general discussion and be followed by the voting of Demands for the Grants. Two days have been allotted for the general discussion and the maximum of seven days has been set apart for the voting of Demands for Grants. The Demands will be taken up in the order in which they are printed in the list of Demands, copy of which has been already furnished to honourable members. The Demands under II—Land Revenue and Taxes on Income and VII—Public Works may each be discussed for one whole day; and not more than half a day will be allotted for each of the remaining Demands.

Every member, other than the Financial Secretary, will be allowed during the general discussion stage, not more than fifteen minutes as usual. But I hope honourable members will, while not unduly restraining themselves, allow as many non-official members as possible to participate in the discussion and also render it possible to give the Government members adequate time for reply.

I find on scrutiny of the names furnished by the Secretary that there are 23 members of the National Congress Party, 12 members in the People's Party and 26 members who belong to no-party. My endeavour will be, as far as possible, to give the members of these parties in proportion to their numbers opportunity for speaking. Roughly speaking 11 members of the National Congress Party, 5 members of the People's Party and 12 members of no-party, will be allowed to take part in the general discussion of the budget. I shall be glad if honourable members of each party who whish to speak will kindly give their list to the Secretary sufficiently early so that they may be called up as they stand and catch the eye of the President.

When voting on the Demands for the grants every mover and the official member who has the right of reply will be allowed ten minutes each and the other members five minutes each. Standing Order No. 59 requires notice of every motion to be given to the Secretary two clear days before the day on which the Demand comes up for consideration. Late motions will not be accepted. It will facilitate business if honourable members giving notice of token motions which can most conveniently before a reduction of one rupee will also specify the purpose underlying the proposed cut and take care to see that the cut motions are confined to amounts entirely votable.

In this connection, I may also invite the attention of honourable members to my predecessor's ruling regarding budget motions given on the 30th of July 1935, reported on pages 705 to 707 of Volume VI of the Proceedings of the Sri Mulam Assembly—*vide* pages 121-124 of the Rulings from the Chair.

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[President.]

In calculating the number of hours to be allotted for the voting of Demands, I propose to follow the procedure which has been followed during the last three years. A day will be taken as from 11 a. m. to 5 p. m. One hour being available for question time, and another hour (1 to 2 p. m.) as lunch interval, the remaining four hours be treated as one full day and two hours as half a day. If the whole of the first hour is not taken up for question and answers, the time left over will be available for the voting of the Demands for Grants. Such available time will not go to increase the time allotted for any particular Demand but will be available to the House and thus enable them to reach more Demands.

Order, order. Honourable members will have noticed that this year I was anxious to take, as I have always been anxious to take this House into confidence regarding not only the budgeting policy of Government but also the general policy of Government in so far as such policy may impinge upon or affect the budget or the finances of the State. On the last occasion on which I addressed this House, *viz.* three days ago, I refrained from referring for obvious reasons to matters of a purely domestic character. With the leave of this House I shall make clear by a further statement the policy of Government on one or two other matters, because I foresee that that statement may courtail discussion and elucidate the position of Government.

The first of those points arises with regard to the extension of service of Government employees. The Government have now arrived at the decision which they intend to adhere to that, generally speaking no extensions will be given to Government servants excepting on grounds of public interests, that no personal ground, however strong or urgent, will be a ground or justification for an extension to be given; and from that it follows that every application for an extension will not be regarded with favour but be scrutinised with care. Also, Government have arrived at the conclusion that excepting where the services of a particular officer are deemed to be urgent and indispensable, no more than one extension should be given to any officer.

The second point also arises with regard to the public service. Apparently a system has grown up and was in evidence from about thirty or forty years ago by which for various reasons, not entirely discreditable but even creditable in many cases, the ages of Government officers were either over-stated or under-stated at the time they entered service. Government have now resolved that one year's time should be given to all public servants in the State to make all the corrections that they wish to make in regard to their ages. Afterwards if any discrepancies are found out, those would go against the officer and might even affect the pension. The Government do not in coming to this conclusion, arrive at any judgment regarding any moral culpability on the part of the officer concerned. Very often, parents were responsible for the statement of age. Very often careless registration in school registers was responsible for this. Very often also a particular youth desiring to enter service early overstated his age. The policy

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therefore has been laid down that one year from this date will be given to all public employees to make all the necessary corrections they have to make in regard to their ages, after which Government will have to take their own course in regard to these officers.

The last point which raises a large question is with regard to the policy of Government which has been recently enunciated and which I wish to have fully discussed on the floor of this House and elsewhere. That is with regard to the policy of encroachment, of applications for registry in respect of puthuvals or applications in respect of cardamom lands. At one time evidently there was a difficulty in colonising various parts of this State. Encroachments had therefore to be countenanced by the State and even by the Courts in order to enable enterprising people settle in particular localities and utilise their powers of organisation and agricultural skilfulness in developing undeveloped tracts of the country. That time is past. We are now suffering from lack of land and a plethora of population. We cannot therefore adopt the principle of any laxity in the operation of the Land Conservancy Rules. Government have laid down that length of occupation by itself is no justification. The longer a man has squatted on public property or another man's property the more advantage he has derived and therefore the more ready he must be to leave that property after having enjoyed the property and its income for such a long time. There has been a tremendous amount of laxity, not wholly unconnected with the activities or connivance of the Forest Department subordinates, the Revenue Department subordinates and the Department of Public Works subordinates. Government will enforce without respect of person the rules relating to land conservancy. I have known of cases where a man having a large tract of land purposely builds a house or starts some other big construction at the edge of that land placing his improvements in poramboke or public property in order to peg out a claim to the property encroached upon. In all such cases of encroachment heartless as the course may sometimes appear to be the public interests are so great and urgent and the want of land is so keenly felt, that Government cannot afford to and will not pay respect to persons and the policy will be consistant and uniform, but necessary when we consider the demands of the public interests. Now, I find that in many cases length of occupation or the utilisation of force or influence is regarded as a kind of passport to ask for kuthagapattam if land cannot be registered. My opinion is that we have had enough of these encroachments on public property, enough of these encroachments on porambokes, enough of building of shops on public land, encroachments on municipal property and encroachments on forest land, and the idea of Government will be to try and make use of as much land as possible for as many as possible.

The general discussion will now commence.

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MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pathanapuram* cum *Shencottah Deputy President*): Sir, let me in the first place offer my congratulations to the Financial Secretary for the lucid exposition of the finances and the financial operations of this State. The budget estimates presented to us provide for a revenue realisation of Rs. 280·73 lakhs and for a programme of expenditure charged to revenue of Rs. 279·23 lakhs and for a nominal surplus of Rs 1·5 lakhs. Sir, a surplus budget at a time of great stress and strain caused by the present war is something unthinkable, particularly in a maritime State like ours which has received the worst impacts of the war. When it is realised that the real surplus is not Rs. 1·5 lakhs but Rs. 10·5 lakhs if we take into consideration the reserve of Rs. 9 lakhs provided for in the budget, and this after making adequate provision for all the demands of a progressive administration, it shows unmistakably that the finances of the State are intrinsically very strong and that the financial operations of the State cannot be in better hands. Sir, it used to be remarked a few years back by financial experts that the revenues of the State could not possibly go higher than Rs. 250 lakhs and that our programme of expenditure had to be shaped accordingly. Now, Sir, the very illuminating statement that you made at the joint sitting, surveying the finances of the State, gives unmistakable proof of the fact that our finances are capable of expansion and that the revenues of the State are capable of rising to Rs. 3 crores during the next quinquennium and that this will be possible not as a result of any additional taxation but as the result of normal expansion of revenue for which the foundation has been well and truly laid by you, Sir.

Now, after having made these general remarks, looking at the budget estimates, what strikes one as something very gratifying in the first place is the item of revenue derived from the working of the State Railway. Sir, the operations of the Railway system have yielded us a net revenue of Rs. 1·4 lakhs during the current year and it is expected that the working of the State Railway will yield us Rs. 1·5 lakhs during the coming year. Sir, this is very gratifying to us and let us hope that the revenue received from the working of the Railway will become a normal feature of our revenues. It is something very strange also that this revenue receipt has coincided with the association of the Travancore Government's representative with the Railway authorities in scrutinising the accounts relating to the working of the Railway.

Looking at the new proposals adumbrated in the speech made by the Financial Secretary, it is found that there are two proposals for additional taxation. One relates to the levy of an export duty on rubber and the other relates to the imposition of an additional export duty on tea Sir, the taxation proposal on rubber works out to less than 2 pies a lb., and the additional taxation proposed to be levied on tea works out to less than 1 pie per lb. I am sure, Sir, that not only the general public but also the industries concerned will accept, without any demur, the new impositions which are very insignificant. These new proposals are expected to bring us revenues of Rs. 4 lakhs under rubber and Rs. 1·75 lakhs under tea. These are all very inconsiderable sums which, I am sure, the industries will not grudge to pay.

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The next item of importance which I have noticed is the provision of a reserve of Rs. 9 lakhs.

Sir, I welcome this proposal and I am sure the whole house will welcome it. We are now in the midst of very difficult and extraordinary times. We may have to meet an emergency at any time, political, military or economic, and it is only very proper and advisable that a reserve provision of Rs. 7 lakhs for general purposes and Rs. 2 lakhs under military demand should be had with the Government to meet any extraordinary situation that might arise.

In this connection, I have to refer to the situation which has now developed in the country on account of the rise in the prices of articles, particularly food stuffs and clothing. Sir, one of the worst reactions of the last war was the phenomenal rise in the price of articles generally. Profiting by the experience of the conditions which existed during the last war, you, Sir, very promptly took immediate steps on the outbreak of war to check the tendency noticeable in the trend of prices of articles and to combat profiteering tendencies. Sir, we had a quiet time all these years. But the tendency is now manifesting itself in several directions particularly in the matter of prices of articles of food and clothing. It is very refreshing to note that the Government have resolved to meet the situation that may arise out of such tendency by equipping themselves with materials, and if necessary by arming themselves with powers vested under the Defence of Travancore Rules. I am sure this House will be solidly behind the Government in any measures they may adopt for the purpose of meeting such a situation.

Sir, a word about the proposal regarding the decision to increase the production of paddy. Among the proposals in the Financial Secretary's speech there is one for the purpose of increasing the production of paddy by providing facilities for the conversion of an area of 25 thousand acres of land under single crop into double crop lands, and also by the provision of increased facilities for raising more paddy in south Travancore. This is all very good. In this connection I have to press upon the attention of Government what I consider to be a very important measure to achieve the very same object. I refer to the problem of paddy cultivation in the Shencottah taluk. This taluk is a purely agricultural taluk. A very large extent of land is under paddy. Most of the lands are irrigated by minor irrigation tanks numbering about 150. These tanks were restored about 30 years ago. Since then they have been very badly neglected and have deteriorated to such an extent that the present condition of these tanks is responsible for the frequent failure of crops during the last several years. If only these tanks could be restored to their old condition it will be possible to increase the production of paddy in that taluk considerably and it will go a long way in tackling this problem. Now the problem of paddy production is connected with the problem of food supply in Travancore. However much we may try to increase the supply of paddy, still the problem will remain unsolved for several years to come. Sir, there are vast tracts of land in this country where there are no facilities for irrigation. It may be possible to raise dry crops in those

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[Mr. S. Chattanatha Karayalar.]

places. Dry crops could very well supplement the production of paddy. This matter has not been engaging the attention of the ryots in the state and I hope it will now receive their attention.

In this connection I have to advert to the question which you incidentally raised in your address the other day before the joint Sitting, I mean, the problem of food supply in Travancore will remain a problem for very many years to come, whatever steps may be taken to increase the production of paddy. The problem has become very acute now on account of the difficulties of shipping and it will be very necessary to plan for the future. It will be in the interest of the State to plan for the production of mercantile shipping and I hope Government will take early steps in the matter.

A word about industries and industrialisation in this country. It will be admitted on all hands that the future of this country depends upon industrialisation. It will be readily conceded that there is great scope for the development of several industries, both long and small scale industries. The other day you explained to us that there is very great scope for the establishment of the cement industry and you told us that the Aluminium industry will be established in the near future, and you also explained that very many industries based on the mineral resources of the country could be easily established. With a view to the development of industries Government have embarked upon a policy of industrialisation and have provided cheap electrical power. That goes a great way. But industrialisation of the State cannot be achieved or speeded up by cheap power unless at the same time there is another factor present. What is wanted in this country for the speeding up of an industrialisation programme is not only cheap power but also cheap industrial credit. Without industrial credit it will be practically impossible to speed up industrialisation. Sir, our State is one which is not having a plethora of industrial credit. Unfortunately we are still in the grip of the banking crisis which developed in the country 3 years ago, and what little capital was available has become frozen as a result. The situation therefore is gloomy. At the same time, development of industries cannot be postponed. The present moment must be utilised for the purpose of developing industries. How to find the necessary credit is the problem. I do not suggest for a moment that Government should finance all industrial concerns. But I suggest, for their serious consideration that the financial agencies, banks, existing in the country, be exploited for the purpose financing industrial concerns. For this purpose I have to suggest that the Government should be able to pick and choose certain industries and industrial concerns which should be favoured by protection. I mean that the Governmet should be prepared to give guarantees on behalf of such industrial concerns as they have confidence in. Under a system of guarantees given by Government it will be possible to mobilise such credit as is available in the country. I understand that such a system is in force in Mysore and that several industries have advanced considerably by a system of credit

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based upon guarantee given by Government. Such a scheme may be adopted here with advantage and the programme of industrialisation speeded up considerably. Sir, these are some of the observations which I wish to make on the budget.

MR. M. L. JANARDHANAN PILLAI (*Nominated*): Sir, the special features of the budget for 1117 are that there has been no additional taxation and no salary cuts either. The nation building activities have been sufficiently provided for. Provision has also been made for a reserve to be held by Government in order to meet unexpected contingencies. The debt of Rs. 14 3/4 lakhs stands discharged. The administration has been so carefully and efficiently carried out that it has been possible to anticipate without any fear of contradiction, an income of Rs. 280 lakhs and an expenditure of Rs.279 lakhs. The anticipated revenue is the highest on record. Only two additional taxes have been imposed, viz., a cess on rubber and a small tax on tea. The administration has not suffered on account of difficulties in the world situation. The speech of the President of the United Planters' Association of South India, presiding over the rubber section, shows that this cess has not hit the industry very hard. Considering the peak prices the industry has been able to secure the cess is only very small. It is also interesting to recollect that while the Travancore Government has fixed Re. 1 as cess the Ceylon Government fixed Rs. 2 1/2 as export only. Thus it has been possible for the Government to present a satisfactory budget from all points of view without taxing the ordinary tax payer and without starving the departments. I congratulate the Government on placing before this House a budget which inspires confidence—a budget which shows that the finances of the country are in safe hands. The year that is just passing is remarkable for many achievements of Government. Sir, through the efforts of the head of the administration, the coir industry has been able to secure a very large order from the Government of India War Supplies Department. It came in at a very opportune time. Government had just then advanced money for relief works. They had also made free contributions for supplying rice to labourers that were thrown out of employment. And but for this order it woud not have been possible to provide relief to a large body of unemployed people. The result has been that prices of coir yarn went up by 50 to 60%. Sir, Travancore Coir Mats and Matting Association and the Travancore War Supplies Syndicate were brought into existence solely through the advice of the head of the administration.

I may assure the House that these two institutions are rendering valuable aid to the people of the State. Their orders have provided considerable relief to the poor people of this State. The relief works conducted by Government opened up different parts of the country on the one side and have enabled the agriculturist to bring his produce to the markets The labour situation was at one time threatening to become a grave trouble. You Sir, were also responsible for bringing together the representatives of the employees and

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[Mr. M. L. Janardhanan Pillai.]

the workers together to amicably solve their difficulties. As a result of your advice, today there has sprung up an institution wherein both the representatives of the employers and the workers do meet in the kindliest of terms possible, discuss and find out means of solving their problems to the best of their satisfaction. Before finally solving their problem, if any difficulty arose in the interim period, they can use the provisions of the Trades Disputes Act. The Inspector General of Police gave special directions to his subordinates to handle the situation carefully and avoid troubles. In that connection I must pay a tribute to the services done by the Police under the able and expert guidance of the Inspector General of Police. The result achieved has been remarkable. A labourer in Travancore has thereby secured the maximum wages available in Travancore through the efforts of the Government. At the same time the employers had also their reasonable profits. The decisions arrived at were very satisfactory from the point of view of employers and the workers. In spite of difficulties brought about by the war, shipment is going on regularly and we are thankful to the head of the administration for the vigilant and watchful care exercised by him on the business problems of the country. It is through the efforts of the Government that we were able to obtain special shipping facilities especially at the beginning of this war. It is also gratifying to note that the head of the administration is in touch with authorities elsewhere for securing advantages to persons engaged in business. But for the active help rendered by the Government we would have been in a terrible plight. The proposal for the prevention of the export of cotton yarn is a step in the right direction for which also I congratulate the Government heartily. In your desire Sir, to help the industries of the State, you have been good enough even to the extent of offering financial guarantees which any where else would not even be thought of. When it was found necessary that the Government should step in and offer their own guarantees in respect of a particular industry, you Sir, had no hesitation in doing it and that is a very big responsibility which the Government undertook to fulfil. I have great pleasure in assuring you that the Association has justified the confidence and trust reposed in them by the head of the administration.

During this year particularly, the country has been free from any subversive political agitation. That is decidedly a great advantage because if such political activities were going on, the trade of the country would have been practically paralysed. With war on one side and such attempts on the other, the situation would have been very calamitous.

In regard to the food supply of Travancore, I find from the statement of the Financial Secretary that endeavours are being made by Government to bring under cultivation some more acres of land in the northern taluks of the State and that it would be possible to produce an additional quantity of 25 lakhs of paras of paddy. This is probably the first attempt to see how best we can meet our own requirements, in regard to the food problem. All these efforts show how Government are keen to help the people in such an extremely difficult condition. So far I have spoken about the achievements of Government,

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But I have also to strike a discordant note in another direction. The public service as a whole has become rather inefficient from the point of view of the non-officials. It may be that the services have not been well paid. It may be that they are not able to sustain sufficiently the hard work. If there is really any difficulty of that kind, it is for the head of the administration to investigate the matter and give us the services of very efficient officers on whose capacity for work and intergrity we can always be sure. Let us have our money's worth. There is the question of laws delays also which is very seriously affecing the progress of commerce in the State. I am fully aware that though the head of the administration has been taking steps in that matter, still there is corruption amongst the ranks of clerks, amins and other lower subordinates of the judiciary throughout the State. In the judicial department, it is practically impossible to get prompt justice. Even in the case of decrees secured after a long and protracted suit, it has become quite impossible to recover moneys. That sort of situation has to be remedied forthwith.

I must point out that the method of the working of the Industries Department has not been altered in spite of the various observations brought to the notice of Government. It appears as if the department exists merely for the distribution of industrial grants just like the Inspector's office of the Education department. If that is so, I would very respectfully submit that this department may be amalgamated with the Education Department. Sir, immediately after the last war there was economic depression and similarly I would not be surprised if we face some such serious difficulty after the present war. With regard to our commerce we really do not know where we would stand. All foreign markets are practically closed. We are not sure whether many of us will have a single market left open to us, when the war is over. Therefore, it is essential that we should plan for the future and that wisely. We must be even now prepared to meet all eventualities likely to happen at not a very distant date. Expert advice should be had from whichever quarter it comes. When those questions are tackled the industries department also could be remodelled and brought into line with a commerce department, so that it may prove useful to the people of the State.

I congratulate the Government on the financial results achieved in regard to various commercial undertakings. Most of them were either dead or languishing. I am sure the efforts of Government would prove of lasting benefit to the people of the country. I am certain that a few years hence, we shall be able to look back with pride and satisfaction that the head of the administration has been able to provide in this country a net work of industries which would not only ensure a fair dividend to shareholders as time goes on but would also bring increased prosperity to the people, the income from industrial activities will surely increase in the year to come and will be the main source of the revenues of this State. All other sources of income have their limits for expansion. Land cannot bear any further taxation.

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[Mr. M. L. Janardhanan Pillai.]

To a large extent, the unemployment problem could also be solved. The industrial and the commercial minded population are fully aware of the Government's efforts and are ready to co-operate with the administration. I do belive that there is a glorious industrial future for this country. This budget is just the beginning of it. Therein, income has been estimated with care and provision has been made to meet emergencies also. On the basis of this budget I feel there is likly to be still greater income in the coming year from all directions, so much so that this State need not rank as the third in the order of Indian States. It can come even quite near to the first State. I have great pleasure in paying my tribute to the Financial Secretary and to congratulate Government for placing such a splendid budget for our consideration. This year particularly it has been gratifying to note that along with the budget a memorandum has been furnished for our information. That is a very enlightening document.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: (*Nominated*) Sir, Mr. Janardhanan Pillai has dealt with the industrialisation of Travancore and the honourable the Deputy President has referred to the position of agriculture in the State. As far as I see, the immediate problem before us is the food problem and that has to be tackled effectively. This cannot be postponed to a later date.

The international situation is growing dark every day. Japan has no oil resources of its own. It was dependent on America and the Dutch Indies. It is now cautiously proceeding southwards with an eye to subjugate the Dutch Indies and then come to countries nearer us. The Dutch Indies is however a difficult problem since it is backed by interests such as the British and the Americans. Ther is also the Singapore region belonging and controlled by the British.

Burma on the other hand seems to be more vulnerable. Indo-China is already under Japanese control and Thailand has to yield to Japanese pressure. The centre of war may easily shift to Burma.

President: the announcement has been made today about Indo-China.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYER: Threfore, it is all the more necessary for us to find means for solving our food problem. It behoves the Agricultural Department and the Fisheries Department to bestow their undivided attention to produce double the quantity that is now produced in the land. One of the greatest sins committed here is the long neglect of our inland waters and long sea board. The Government should pay attention to improve the condition of the coastal fisheries. The Department of Fisheries must see to culture of fish in large quantities in our pools, marshes, rivers and other water areas in the country. We should not be dazzled by prospects of pearl fishing or the gold and silver fish in the aquarium at the sea side.

Fish serves two purposes, food and manure. The Agricultural and Fisheries Department should join together and organise a system by which the food problem of the country should be solved.

Sir, I was observing that the.....

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PRESIDENT: The honourable member will kindly raise his voice.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: Sir, I was directing my remarks to the fact that Japan may turn this side and start a war against Burmah. Therefore it is more than likely that our supply of rice from Burma may be cut off, wherefore we have to stock rice in sufficient quantity.

I have to submit that our fisheries Department is now practically doing nothing. We have our inland waters and a long sea-board, which are very great assets to the State, greater than the gold mines of Mysore. They can solve the food problem, oil problem, manure problem and various other problems of Travancore. That department is in Purdah. It has withdrawn into the cloistered seclusion of the University. No doubt, one or two members of this House are represented in the University. But that would not do. It must come out; it must work in the light of day. It is not a department of education: it is a department of production. It must face the search-light of criticism in this Assembly. The department must do concentrated work. It must prepare a scheme of work and work it out and submit reports to the Government from time to time.

I pass on from this to the post war problem of Travancore. It is difficult for anybody to anticipate the future. We shall find ourselves in an economic depression deeper than the one that we passed through. It is not a case of loss of mere markets, it is a case of destruction of wealth and the purchasing power of large powers. It will be very difficult to resuscitate our position.

The only place to which we can turn our eyes is America. It must be possible for this Government, with the wisdom, sagacity and skill of the Dewan President to have a Travancore attachee on the staff of the Agent-General of America; that attachee may look after the developing our trade with America. It will be only welcome to the Central Government. The Central Government might welcome it from the stand-point of dollar exchange as well.

PRESIDENT: Honourable members of the House will be glad to know that negotiations have already been opened in that direction.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: I must record my great appreciation for it.

I find that the Financial Secretary has felt the need for effecting economy and he has put it emphatically in his speech. I beg to read one or two pages. On page 7 of the Financial Secretary's speech I find the following:

> "After a full consideration of the pros and cons of the two ways of making up for the fall of revenue, *viz*, enhancement of revenue by resort to additional taxation and reduction of expenditure by limiting it to the barest requirements Government decided that rather than pinch the ryot with the burden of an addition tax, they would make the ends meet by a severe cut in expenditure of course without detriment to the efficiency of administration.....The fixing of a maximum limit of travelling allowance for touring officers, severe restrictions on the grant of leave and the appointment of substitutes in leave vacancies, the abolition of progressive scales of pay to temporary posts, the reduction of expenditure under office contingencies, the combination of appointments which could be amalgamated without prejudice to efficiency; -

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[Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar]

these are the more important of the retrenchment measures adopted by Government in furtherance of their policy to reduce expenditure on the administration, so as to avoid as far as possible the incidence of fresh taxation on the ryot".

The House is alive to the need for retrenchment. But nevertheless a word has to be said. We see from the accounts that more than 35 per cent of our revenue goes to the Civil Service. I do not for a moment say that the efficiency of our public service should be sacrificed. I do accept the position of the Dewan President, that our salaries are not too high but the cumulative effect is that it becomes a heavy burden upon the tax payers. There are departments that are over-staffed. There are sinecures. There are leakages. There are wastages. There are very many ways in which public money can be conserved. It is not for me to suggest ways and means just now. I leave it to wiser heads. Instead of a policy of drift and leaving it for later Geddeses and Inchcapes, we should start tackling it now.

Having said so much, I now come to the new taxes that have been imposed. I refer in particular to the cess on rubber and the additional duty on tea. The tea insterests are happy to pay the additional tax when it is a case of emergency. But there is a tendency for temporary emergent measures in this State to become permanent. The history of the tea export duty is an illustration. Before the last war tea had no export duty. For the purpose of war, the Central Government wanted to levy an export duty on tea. Half was to go to them and half to us. After the war the Central Government redeemed its promise and withdrew the duty. But not so this State.

PRESIDENT: I hope the honourable member will remember the history of the introduction of income tax in British India and for what purpose it was introduced.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: I was observing that measures which are brought forward by the Government as a temporary measure have a tendency to become permanent. It has also to be remembered that tea cultivators have to pay land tax, income tax, tea cess, export duty and eversomany other taxes. I do not see Sir, why some part of the petrol duty which we were getting should not come to us. Possibly it is regarded as an import duty after the separation of Burma. That is a matter for the consideration of the Dewan-President. After the war we shall pas through the severest of depressions. We will have to tighten our belts. What about the services then? Can we afford the present heavy charges. Something has to be done and that early enough.

PRESIDENT: What I am going to do as I have indicated this morning is to call the names of honourable members from the various parties with special reference to those members who have given notice of adjournment motions. But if those honourable members are not in their seats, I am not going to give them further indulgence.

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MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP : Sir, it is a matter for self approbation that our financial posistion is stable and that our national debt, though amounting to more than Rs. five crores, can easily be discharged by the income that may be realised from our commercial and industrial enterprises. It also adds to our credit that we can challenge any native State or British Indian Provinces in the matter of literacy among the subjects.

In spite of our financial position and literacy Sir, it is to be regretted that our cost of administration is mounting up year after year. Out of the Rs. 280 lakhs about Rs. 140 lakhs are to be dispersed as pension allowances and pay for those who once served and those who are serving the State. This number does not come to one per cent of the total population. It is with the balance that we have to work out our plan for the progress of the State. I am glad to note Sir that the Government have realised this, and are trying to cut down the cost of administration by abolishing the post of a big officer like the Land Revenue Commissioner. By that abolition Sir, the Government has gained the pay and allowance of that Office. I would suggest Sir, that the principle adopted in the abolition of the Office of the Land Revenue Commissioner may be applied to other departments such as the P. W. the Forest, the Excise, the Police and so on, where there are Divisional Officers who can be made responsible to the Government directly. A large sum can be saved by way of pay and travelling allowances. If the, experiment is successful with regard to the Land Revenue Department I am sure it will be equally successful in the case of other departments also. I hope Sir that the Government will try at such reductions to cut down the cost of administration.

Sir, the public servants getting a pay of Rs. 15 and below per mensem will find it very difficult to maintain themselves during the period of War, owing to the rise in price of food stuffs. It is for the Government to go to their rescue by giving them some allowance during the time of war.

Coming on to the Land Revenue Department Sir, it is selling the properties of the tax payers at the end of each instalment, before the tax becomes arrears for the year I think that the policy of collecting the tax of the year before the end of the year by distraint and sale, is newly adopted.

In Ambalapuzha and Shertalai, the tax is to be paid by two instalments in Dhanu and Medom. If that is not paid at the end of each instalment, sales for the respective instalments are conducted and the tax realised. Hence at least two demand notices and two sales are inevitable, which mean additional cost on the tax payer. As every tax payer knows that his property will be sold, if he does not pay the tax, it cannot be expected that the default is made purposely. Inability is the reason. The Government may be pleased to direct the department that the distraint and sale of properties of the tax payers shall be made only at the end of the year. The tax payer should be given time till the end of Karkadagom to pay the tax.

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[Mr. N. Narayana Kurup]

The Public Works Department is saturated with Engineers. Many of the Engineers here Sir, do not know how to make an estimate for a work, suitable to the place where it is to be worked. The fact is evident from the reduction from the estimated amount during the time of tender for the work. We see generally that a work for which there is an estimate of Rs. 10,000 is given to the contractor for Rs. 7,000. The Government may be pleased to give direction to make estimates for actual amounts required for the work.

Sir, the administration of boat service is very defective and it must be brought under a centralised control. It is now controlled by three P. W. Divisions, Alwaye, Kottayam and Quilon. The Executive Engineers and their subordinates with sufficient works cannot be expected to sympathetically enter into the details, nor to study the implications of the various questions peculiar to water transport. Three sets of officers have to make themselves thorough with the question. The usual transfer of officers would break the continuity of experience. By the present arrangement, the inspection of the engine and the hull has to be done, in every six months. Because of the difficulty in detailing the Work Shop Engineers and the Port Officer, the inspection is carriedon consecutive days, unlike the case of leases, extending over a period of 30 days in each half year. This involves much dislocation of service. If a separate division or sub-division is created under the control of an Executive Engineer, with his head office at Alleppey, with full control and power of inspection, all the present difficulties could be avoided. The inspection can be spread over the year without any dislocation of service as in the case of the inspection of buses in service.

The Redeemer Committee reports also agree with my suggestion. It says "It will conduce to the increased efficiency in the work of canal officers, if a canal division or sub-division is created in the charge of an Executive Engineer or other responsible officer whose head quarters is at Alleppey and who will himself be directly and immediately under the Chief Engineer. All the canal officers throughout the State will be under him and not being burdened with the execution of regular public works, connected with the canals, who will find it possible to supervise the work of his subordinates more satisfactorily than hitherto". I would suggest that a canal division may be created.

The department is not constructing any major bridge of all-Travancore importance at present. They complain insufficiency of funds. It is the duty of the Government to find money for such works and all the bridges of all-Travancore importance should be constructed within 5 years. If the Government have no money to spare, at present, a loan may be raised.

Sir, there is a general complaint that the Education Department is showing a step-motherly attitude to the teachers in grant-in-aid schools who are over-worked in spite of their low pay. Even

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though this House was once assured by the honourable member Dr. Moudgile when he was the Director of Public Instruction that the reduced grant of 8 as. will be returned to them, the Government have not yet done so. This is the time to say them back the same. Secondly, Sir, those teachers are not allowed to take any privilege leave as the teachers in Government schools are entitled to take. The Director of Public Instruction must be pleased to help them to get such privileges in grant-in-aid schools also. There is yet another difficulty for them. The renewal of grant memo, every year, takes two to three months time, i. e. Mithunam, Karkadagom and Chingom next. This causes delay in getting their grant. The poor teachers go without any pay for these three months. The Director may be pleased to see that the memos are renewed within one month from the date of receipt.

Now I come to the Agricultural Department. It is seen from the Administration Report that we imported about Rs. 4 crores worth of rice, Rs 16 lakhs worth of paddy and Rs. 13½ lakhs worth of sugar in 1115. This must open our eyes and the Government should take steps to increase our output of paddy and sugar. I am aware that the Government is at it. Yet Sir, I dont believe that the cultivation by lift irrigation and intensive cultivation can solve the problem. I would suggest Sir, that the Government should give suitable area from the reserved forest on lease for paddy cultivation by blocks. No registry shall be allowed. In my opinion the grassy plains of the Reserve, between Pallivassal and Udampanchola, covering an area of 1 lakh of acres and the grassy swamp areas on either side of Kumily-Vandanmedu road, measuring about 15000 acres are suitable for paddy cultivation. It is found by experiment in neighbouring places that one acre will yield 150 paras of paddy. These acres can be leased out for one or two years by blocks, on half yield basis. If this is done, leaving a margin for any loss, we can produce one crore of paras of paddy every year which will suffice for any emergency. I would request the Government to consider very seriously about this.

For the speedy disposal of the petitions under the Act II of 1116, and for the working of the Act, I think some additional Munsiffs courts at all district centres have to be sanctioned.

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, I have great pleasure to congratulate the Financial Secretary on the statement which he has made before the House. It is both succinct and clear; and it has been implemented by a comprehensive and lucid speech from the Chair. The two statements taken together, would show to the House and to the country an exact picture of our financial and economic position today. It shows our attainments of the year and our failures and also our aspirations and our efforts in the immediate future. May I Sir, convey to you my humble tribute of congratulations on the most comprehensive statement you have made in the House on the financial position of our State.

Sir, the one subject which has been agitating the minds of al of us is this question of war. We are concerned in that matter

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[Mr. K. G. Kunjukrishna Pillai]

immediately and directly not only because the ideals for which Great Britain is fighting, and the Allies are fighting, are the ideals for which we stand, or the ideals and aspirations which are enshrined in our religion, in our tradition, in our history and in our culture; not merely on account of that we support them, but our self interest does call forth some action from us. Our political existence, our social welfare, our economic order or disorder depend very much on the success or failure of the Allies. We are so bound, so indissolubly bound to Great Britain and her destiny that for a moment I cannot conceive any defeat of the Allies without extremely disastrous consequences for our State. Therefore every effort should be made to support and contribute our mite for the prosecution of the war. Therefore Sir, we humbly place before you our unstinted support for the amount of three lakhs contributed by H. H. The Maharaja and we are prepared again to contribute our support in further efforts. Sir, you mentioned specifically the names of two private institutions viz. Harrisons & Crosfield and the Pierce Lesslie Companies which have contributed to war purposes.

May I say, Sir, that they are not the only institutions which have been doing their bit for the prosecution of the war? Take for instance Sir, the Saturday Club, an institution that caters to the gastronomic needs as well as offers intellectual relaxation and social adjustment to some of the eminent officers of the State. The Saturday Club has offered as much to war service as the other institutions. I am thereby showing that there are private agencies. private clubs and private institutions who are prepared to do their utmost for the prosecution of the war.

MR. MURUKKUMPUZHA V. KUNJUKRISHNAN: What has the Saturday Club supplied towards war efforts?

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: Good brains. It is not sufficient to give money alone or to supply the machineries alone. The actual, real help will be given only when we are able to place at the disposal of the Allies and Great Britain a well trained army. Every effort must be made incessantly to train our young men in military service and in war technology, in all that relate to what is called modern total warfare. Let us have such an army of young men. Let us induce every one of our young men to get good military training and to go and fight on the side of the allies, because they will be fighting for our own sake.

Another matter of importance I would refer to is this. You categorically reiterated the other day that to envisage the possibility in the immediate future of responsible Government in the sense of government by an executive removable at the will of the legislature is not consistent with the treaty obligation of the State to the paramount power. We welcome that statement again. Apart from that position, I am asking those who did not join that movement through personal motives or because they had no other work but who sincerely think and thought that responsible government in the sense adumberated was a

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panacea for all our evils, what does history teach us? That sort of responsible Government in Athens degenerated into mobocracy. In Rome it became Caesar worship. In France it failed and in England, Sir, it is an autocrat that rules now. At the time of the last war it was Mr. Lloyd George. During this war it is Mr. Winston Churchill But the lesson is clear that in times of national emergency no sort of Parliamentary government would be of any use. Even in times of peace for a good working system, before we have responsible government there are enormous difficulties we have to educate the electorate, to make them conscious of their position and of their responsibilities and their duties. In view of all these circumstances I am inviting all those who are in the movement for responsible government to reconsider their position and to see that this sort of responsible government has times without number, proved a failure, and that any talk in the name of responsible government affecting the power and prestige and prerogative of the Sovereign is certainly unwarranted. There is the offer of the President to associate the people more and more in the administration of the country and to make the voice of the people effective in the administration of the country. All these things I would place for the contemplation of those who are still deluding themselves that they are carrying on a fight for the good of the country.

The present war has affected us in two directions. It has destroyed our industries. Some of them like the coir industry were our monopolies. By destroying our coir industry, it has destroyed a large portion of our income through customs duties. It has upset the local labour condition and made misery and poverty the order of the day in Alleppey, Shertallai and other places. So on one side the definite repercussion of the war has been industrial degeneration and disaster. On the other side it has made it difficult for food supplies to come in due to shortage of shipments. The daily necessities of life are going up in price in spite of the very strenuous efforts on the part of the Government It is inevitable that prices should go up for the simple reason that the commodities will not be available in plenty and in season. Thus the war has destroyed our income and has created greater poverty and greater misery. Added to that, the cyclone havoc in North Travancore and malaria in South Travancore have greatly added to the difficulties of Government. In one direction the income is falling. Our revenues from customs are practically at a standstill. Our revenue from excise has decreased and that from land revenue is likely to be on the decline. At the same time every moment there is a call and a prayer that more money should be spent on ameliorative enterprises, that the labourers should be given employment, that Cyclonic havoc should be relieved. On the one side there are growing demands for expenditure which must be met. On the other side there is less income. This is the position now. And it is at this stage that I want particularly to congratulate the Financial Secretary and the Government in the incidence of this taxation. No doubt Sir, a large curtailment of expenditure has to be expected. The proposed taxation has fallen only on people who can meet it. The tax on cardamom, on tea, and on rubber,

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[Mr. K. G. Kunjukrishna Pillai.]

I submit, is only a just tax. There is no tea estate owner who is unable to pay the tax. There is no owner of a rubber estate who does not possess lakhs of rupees and I am assured that any one who owns 25 acres of cardamom land will be able after four years to get a steady annual return of Rs. 4,000 from the land. So this sort of taxation is just and proper. While it will relieve the poor people from additional taxation, it will save Government from having to discharge a very unpleasant duty of taxing the poor ryot. So I submit that the present method of taxation is correct and the tax may even be increased. I would also submit that Government may impose a duty on profiteering. There is no doubt that even in Travancore there is profiteering on account of the war.

We must find out permanent means of improving our income. One way is to build up private industries. Take for instance the charcoal industry. That must be built up on a co-operative or a joint stock company basis with the wealth of the private people of the land. Take again tapioca cultivation or one hundred other small things which are at present needed for the war and which we can supply if only we put our hands to the wheel. It is certainly discreditable to the country to be told that whenever an industry is started, capital in the country is shy. Even the capital which has been invested in the industry is subsequenlly withdrawn. That would create in future very unpleasant consequences. Such a thing ought to be avoided. I invite all the businessmen in the country to join together and to organise their efforts systematically, for the time being to supply those things that are needed for the war, and on that basis to build up subsequently into new industries and new concerns which will even after the war give us sufficient returns. The Commerce members, Mr. Janardanan Pillai and Mr. Krishna Aiyar said that after the war the industries will be dislocated. I ask—what prevents our planning now for that contingency and organising a series of business concerns in such a way that they will not be dislocated after the war is over. Take for instance the case of the cement industry. Take the case of the tapioca industry. I would invite those people who have plenty of money and who are retiring from service to invest their moneys and take into hand some of these industries. They have wealth and talent and they have also experience, business acumen and they could be useful to the country.

Even when all that is done, Travancore is an agricultural country and so every effort has to be made to intensify agriculture with the aid of electricity. Lift irrigation in Kuttanad, the doubling of crops and the introduction of cottage industries to supplement agriculture ought to be the main concern of the Government and the people, for when all is said and done, Travancore is an agricultural country. Therefore my humble submission to the House and to the country at large is that they should concentrate on agriculture and also on the introduction of cottage industries to supplement that agriculture.

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Our University which is rising up can contribute in two ways. It can give us energetic young men with a new vision and ideal to go in the country and to take up a new system and method of agriculture. It can also give us men with sufficient technical knowledge and skill who will also by their research give us the benefit of their results. So, the University can contribute its quota towards the new prosperity and the new era that in spite of the consequences of the war, may yet prevail in the State. Towards that end, I have no doubt that the present Government and the present authorities of the University and the members of the Legislature and all other thinking men of the land will co-operate. In the hope that there will be a brighter future than as envisaged in the statement of the Financial Secretary and in the statement of the Dewan President, notwithstanding the pessimistic note struck by some of the members of the house, I resume my seat, Sir.

MR. A. K. KUMARAN VAIDYAN : സർ, ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ ബഡ്ജറിനെ ഞാൻ ഏറ്റവും ഹൃദയപൂർവ്വം സ്വാഗതം ചെയ്യുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഇത്രയും വിഷമകരമായ ഈ ഘട്ടത്തിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ മിച്ചമുള്ള ഒരു ബഡ്ജറു് അവതരിപ്പിക്കാൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെക്കൊണ്ടു് സാധിക്കുക. ഇത്രയും കാലച്ചുരുക്കത്തിനുള്ളിൽ നിയമിച്ച ഒരു ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറി ഇതു പോലുള്ള ഒരു ബഡ്ജറു് അവതരിപ്പിച്ചു് കണ്ടതിൽ ഞാൻ സന്തോഷിക്കുകയും അദ്ദേഹത്തെ ഒന്നുകൂടി അഭിനന്ദിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുകൊള്ളുന്നു. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും കൊച്ചിയിലുമായി അടുത്തകാലത്തുണ്ടായ കാറു് വലിയ ശല്യം ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. വിശേഷിച്ചും പറവൂർ, കുന്നത്തുനാടു് മുതലായ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ ഈ കാറു് ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്ന ഉപദ്രവം എത്രമാത്രമാണെന്നു് പറഞ്ഞറിയിക്കത്തക്കതല്ല. പറവൂർ താലൂക്കിൽ ഏകദേശം ൪ ൦ ൦ ൦ വീടുകൾ ഇതു നിമിത്തം നശിച്ചു പോയിട്ടുണ്ടു്. വടക്കേക്കരപകുതിയിൽ ഏകദേശം ൮ ൫ , ൦ ൦ ൦ ജനങ്ങൾ അധിവസിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. അവിടെയുള്ള ൧ ൮ ൦ ൦-ൽപരം വീടുകൾ ഈ കാറുമൂലം നശിച്ചുപോയിട്ടുള്ളതായി കണക്കെടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ആ കണക്കുതന്നെ ശരിയല്ല. വീണ്ടും ഒരു കണക്കുകൂടി അയച്ചുകൊള്ളാമെന്നും അവിടത്തെ പാവ്വത്യകാർ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതായി എനിക്കറിയാം. അവിടെ ഒരു തഹശീൽദാർ ഉണ്ടു്. അദ്ദേഹം ഈ താലൂക്കിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്ന കാലത്തോളം അവിടെയുള്ള ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് യാതൊരു രക്ഷയുമില്ല. കോട്ടുവള്ളിപകുതി വരാപ്പുഴപകുതി ഏഴിക്കരപകുതി ഇവിടങ്ങളിൽകൂടി ഏകദേശം ൫ ൦ ൦ വീടുകളും ഏകദേശം ൫ ൦ ൦ ൦ തെങ്ങുകളും നശിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്.

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[Mr. A. K. Kumaran Vaidyan]

പറവൂർതാലൂക്കിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ഇരിക്കുന്ന തഹശീൽദാർ അവിടെയുള്ള ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് യാതൊരു ഗുണവും ചെയ്യുന്ന ഒരാൾ അല്ലെന്ന് ഞാൻ ധൈര്യമായി പറയുന്നു. കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലം വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കം ഉണ്ടായപ്പോൾ ൨൫൦ രൂപ അവിടെയുള്ള സാധുക്കൾക്ക് വിതരണംചെയ്യാനായി കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ അതിൽ ഒരു ൫൦ രൂപയെങ്കിലും അവിടെ ചിലവാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്ന് സംശയമാണ്. ഈ കൊല്ലം വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കം ഉണ്ടായപ്പോൾ ൨൫൦ രൂപ ദുരിതനിവാരണത്തിനായി അദ്ദേഹത്തെ ഏൽപ്പിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. ഒരു ൧൦ ചാക്ക് അരിയെങ്കിലും അദ്ദേഹം അവിടെ വിതരണം ചെയ്തിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ ഞാൻ ഇതു പറയാൻതന്നെ വരികയില്ലായിരുന്നു. എങ്ങനെയെങ്കിലും എല്ലാ സംഗതികളിലും പണം സ്വന്തമായി ലാഭപ്പെട്ടതണമെന്നുള്ള ഏകമനസ്സോടുകൂടിയിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരാളാണ് അദ്ദേഹം എന്ന് തന്നെയല്ല ക്രിമിനൽ കേസുകളിൽക്കൂടി ഇടുന്ന പിഴക്കൂടി ബഞ്ചുക്കാരെ ഭയപ്പെടുത്തി എടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഇപ്പോൾ ദുരിതനിവാരണത്തിനായി അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പണം അതിലേക്ക് നിയുക്തരായിട്ടുള്ള കമ്മറ്റിക്കാരെത്തന്നെ ഏൽപ്പിക്കണമെന്നാണ് എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളത്. കാറുകൊണ്ട് അനവധി തെങ്ങുകൾക്കും മറ്റു കൃഷികൾക്കും നാശം വന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ട് എത്രയും വേഗം ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധ ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ പതിയണമെന്നും അതിനെപ്പറ്റി വേണ്ട അന്വേഷണം നടത്തി സൂക്ഷ്മമായ റിപ്പോർട്ട് വരുത്തണമെന്നും ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ആ താലൂക്കിലുള്ള പൊക്കാളിക്കൃഷി കാറുകൊണ്ട് മുഴുവനും നശിച്ചിരിക്കുകയാണ്. ആ സ്ഥലം സന്ദർശിക്കുന്ന ഏതൊരുദ്യോഗസ്ഥനും ഇതു മനസ്സിലാക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ഏതേതു സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലാണ് ഇപ്രകാരം കൃഷിനാശം വന്നിട്ടുള്ളത്, എന്നു അധികാരമുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ചുറ്റിക്കണ്ടറിയേണ്ടതാണ്. എന്നിട്ടു കരം കുറവു തരികയും വേണം. ഈയിടെ കോട്ടയം പോഷ്കാർ പറവൂർ താലൂക്കിൽ വന്നപ്പോൾ അദ്ദേഹം ചില സ്ഥലങ്ങളെല്ലാം സന്ദർശിച്ചുവെങ്കിലും ഇപ്രകാരം കൃഷിനാശം സംഭവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള മിക്ക സ്ഥലങ്ങളും കണ്ടിട്ടില്ല കോട്ടുവള്ളി, വരാപ്പുഴ മുതലായ പകുതികളിൽ അദ്ദേഹം പോയിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്നു ഞാൻ സംശയിക്കുന്നു.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN: പോഷ്കാർക്ക് ഒരു താലൂക്കിന്റെ എല്ലാ പകുതികളിലും പോകാൻ സാധിക്കുമോ?

MR. A. K. KUMARAN VAIDYAN: എല്ലാ പകുതികളിലും പോകണമെന്നു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നില്ല. എങ്കിലും കാറുകൊണ്ടു വലിയ നാശം വന്നിട്ടുള്ള പകുതികളിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു അതുകൊണ്ട് എത്രമാത്രം ഉപദ്രവമുണ്ടായിട്ട

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ന്നെന്ന് അറിയാൻ വേണ്ടിയാണ് ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ഇദ്ദേഹത്തെ അയച്ചത്. അതുകൊണ്ടാണ് നാശപ്പെട്ട സ്ഥലങ്ങളും മുഴുവനും നേരിട്ട് സന്ദർശിച്ച് കാര്യങ്ങളും അറിയേണ്ടതു്, എന്ന് ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞതു്. വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കവും കാറുംനിമിത്തം ജനങ്ങൾ അനുഭവിക്കുന്ന കഷ്ടതകളെക്കുടി ഗവണ്മെൻറ് അനുകമ്പാപൂർവ്വം വീക്ഷിക്കുമെന്നു ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. തൊഴിലില്ലാതെ അനവധി ആളുകൾ ആ താലൂക്കിൽ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്ന ഈ സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ യുദ്ധകാര്യങ്ങൾക്കു ഉപയോഗിക്കേണ്ട അത്യാവശ്യമുള്ള സാധനങ്ങൾക്കു വേണ്ട ഓർഡർകൾ ഇവിടെ വരുത്തിയതിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ അഭിനന്ദിക്കുന്നു. പറവൂർ താലൂക്കിൽ കയറും ചകരിയുംകൊണ്ടു് ഉപജീവനം കഴിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരുന്ന ആളുകൾക്കു് ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ഒരു ഡിപ്പോ തുറന്നു് അവരെ രക്ഷിക്കണമെന്നു് അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

ഇന്നത്തെ ഭരണാധികാരിയായ ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ ഇവിടത്തെ കൃഷിസംബന്ധിച്ചും സാമാന്യമായ കൃഷിവിഷയത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചും പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധ പതിപ്പിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു് ഇതിനകം എല്ലാവരും ഗ്രഹിച്ചു കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾക്കുള്ള താല്പര്യം വളരെ മുമ്പു് തുടങ്ങി. എത്രമാത്രമാണെന്നു് ഫർ ഫ-ൽ കോഴിക്കോട്ടു വച്ചു നടന്ന ഒന്നാമത്തെ മലബാർ ജില്ലാകോൺഗ്രസ് യോഗത്തിൽ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷം വഹിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു് അദ്ദേഹം ചെയ്ത പ്രസംഗം വായിച്ചാൽ അതു മനസ്സിലാക്കാൻ സാധിക്കും. ഇതുപോലെ കൃഷിയെ പരിഷ്കരിക്കണമെന്നു് വിചാരമുള്ള ഭരണാധികാരികൾ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഇതിനു മുമ്പിൽ ദിവാൻജിമാരായിരുന്നിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്നു സംശയമാണു്. അതുപോലെതന്നെ കൃഷിയെപ്പറ്റി വളരെ പരിചയമുള്ള ഒരു ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറിയാണു് ഇന്നു നമുക്കുള്ളതു. പറവൂർ, കുന്നത്തുനാടു ഈ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ ലിഫ്റ്റ് ഇറിഗേഷൻ മുഖാന്തിരം കൃഷിചെയ്യുവാൻ തീർച്ചപ്പെടുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നതിൽ ദിവാൻജി അവർകളെ ഞാൻ അഭിനന്ദിക്കുന്നു. പറവൂർതാലൂക്കിൽ ആകെ ഒരു ആശുപത്രിമാത്രമേ ഉള്ളു. അതിൽ വളരെ കുറച്ചുപേർക്കേ കിടക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള സൗകര്യമുള്ളു. എങ്കിലും ഏതാനും ഷെഡ്ഡുകൾകൂടി നിർമ്മിച്ചു ആശുപത്രിയെ കഴിയുന്നവിധത്തിൽ കുറെക്കുടി വിപുലപ്പെടുത്തിയാൽ മാത്രമേ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് അതുകൊണ്ടു് രക്ഷയുള്ളു. കുടാതെ ഈ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ എട്ടുപത്തുമൈലിനുകാരോ ആശുപത്രിവീതംകുടി സ്ഥാപിച്ചുതരണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

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[Mr. A. K. Kumaran Vaidyan.]

പറവൂർതാലൂക്കിൽ അടുത്തകാലത്തു് മസൂരിയുടെ ഉപദ്രവം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നുവെങ്കിലും ഈ കൊല്ലം പബ്ലിക്ക് ഹെൽത്തു് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ ഊർജ്ജിതമായ പ്രവർത്തനം നിമിത്തം അഞ്ചാറുപേർ ഒഴികെ ബാക്കിയുള്ളവർ എല്ലാം രക്ഷപ്പെട്ടുകയാണു ചെയ്തതു്. ആ വിഷയത്തിൽ സാനിട്ടറിക്കാർ പണവുംകൂടി ചിലവു് ചെയ്തു് സാധുക്കളെ സഹായിച്ചതിൽ പറവൂർ താലൂക്കുകാർക്കുള്ള കൃതജ്ഞതയെ ഞാൻ രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ആശുപത്രികളിൽ നിന്നും ഫ്രീ ചിങ്ങം ഫ്രീ- മുതൽ മരുന്നുവാങ്ങുന്ന സാധുക്കളല്ലാത്ത ആളുകളിൽനിന്നു പണം വാങ്ങണമെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ഒരു സർക്കുലർ പുറപ്പെടുവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു ഞാൻ അറിയുന്നു. എന്നാൽ സാധുക്കളെ അറിയുന്നതിനു് അങ്ങനെ ഒരു സർക്കുലർ ഇല്ലായിരുന്നെങ്കിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടിവരുന്നതിൽ കൂടുതൽ പണം ഡാക്ടറന്മാർക്കു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടാണു് വരുന്നതു്. ഇങ്ങനെ ഡാക്ടറന്മാർ പണം വാങ്ങുന്ന ഒരു പതിവു് സാധുക്കളെ ബാധിക്കാതെ സൂക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടതാണു് എന്നു ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ സർജൻ ജനറലിന്റെ അനീതിയെപ്പറ്റി ഞാൻ ഉപക്ഷേപം വഴി ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ അറിയിച്ചുകൊള്ളാം. കൃഷി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും, പെരുമ്പാവൂരിൽ ഒരു ഇൻസ്പെക്ടരെ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അദ്ദേഹം ഫ്രീ ഫ്രീ ൽ-ൽ ഒരു ദിവസം സന്ദർശിച്ചു എന്നു റിപ്പോർട്ടുകൊണ്ടു് കാണുന്നു. എവിടെയെല്ലാമാണു് അദ്ദേഹം സന്ദർശിച്ചതു് എന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. കോട്ടുവള്ളി, വരാപ്പുഴ മുതലായ പ്രകൃതികളിലെങ്ങും തന്നെ ആ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ വന്നിട്ടില്ല. അഥവാ ഏതു ദിവസം വന്നു എന്നും എതുപേക്ഷ് ഉപദേശം കൊടുത്തു എന്നും ഞാൻ വെല്ലുവിളിക്കുന്നു. പറവൂർതാലൂക്കിൽ മാഞ്ഞാലി എന്നസ്ഥലത്തു് ഒരു മാതൃകാകൃഷിത്തോട്ടം ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അവിടത്തെ വേലിഎല്ലാം നാശമോശപ്പെട്ടു കിടക്കുകയാണു്. അതിലുള്ള എല്ലാസസ്യങ്ങളും പശുതിന്നു കഴിഞ്ഞു. അടുത്തദിവസം കൃഷി ഡയറക്ടർ വരുന്നു എന്നു കേട്ടപ്പോൾ ഫ്രീ, ഫ്രീ മുളകൊണ്ടുവന്നു് വേലി കെട്ടുവാനായി ടി സ്ഥലത്തു്കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടു. എന്നാൽ അദ്ദേഹം പെരുമ്പാവൂർവരെ വന്നു പോയി എന്നറിഞ്ഞ ഉടൻതന്നെ അതിനെ തിരിച്ചു കൊണ്ടുപോകുകയും ചെയ്തു. യുവാവായ ഇന്നത്തെ കൃഷിഡയറക്ടർ അവർകളുടെ ശ്രദ്ധ ഈ വിഷയത്തിലും പതിയണമെന്നാഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നു.

പബ്ലിക്ക് സർവ്വീസ് കമ്മീഷണർ എന്ന ഉദ്യോഗംതന്നെ എടുത്തു കളയണമെന്നാണു് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. ആ ഉദ്യോഗസൃഷ്ടികൊണ്ടു

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തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്ക് തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ആളുകളെത്തന്നെ വഴിപോലെ നിയമിക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നില്ല എന്നാണ് ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നത്. അതിനാൽ ആ ഉദ്യോഗം നിറുത്തി ആ പണം ചെലവാക്കി വല്ല വഴികളോ റോഡുകളോ തോടുകളോ വെട്ടിക്കുന്നതു വളരെ ഉപകാരമായിരിക്കും. ഇപ്പോൾ "ഉദ്യോഗം നാസ്തി, ധനം നാസ്തി" എന്നു പറയുന്നതുപോലെയാണ് ഉദ്യോഗപ്രാതിനിദ്ധ്യം ഇല്ലാത്തവക്കുള്ള അനുഭവം.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN : പബ്ലിക്ക് സർവീസ് കമ്മിഷണറുദ്യോഗം എടുത്തുകളയണമെന്ന് പറയുകയാണോ, അതോ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ പ്രവർത്തനം പോരാത്തതുകൊണ്ട്, അങ്ങനെ പറയുകയാണോ?

MR. A. K. KUMARAN VAIDYAN : പ്രവർത്തനം പോരാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണല്ലോ എടുത്തുകളയണമെന്നു പറയുന്നത്. തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശമ്പളം വാങ്ങി ജീവിക്കുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ആജ്ഞ അനുസരിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കുമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ വിശ്വാസം. സ്കൂളിലെ സാധുക്കളായ ഉച്ചപ്പട്ടിണിക്കാർക്ക് ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്ന് വല്ല സഹായവും ചെയ്യുന്നതുമെന്നു ഞങ്ങൾ വിചാരിച്ചു. എന്നാൽ "ജനങ്ങൾ ഇതിലേക്ക് എന്തെല്ലാം പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളാണു ചെയ്യാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നതു" എന്നുള്ള ഒരു മറുപടിയാണ് ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നും ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് കിട്ടിയതു. അപ്പോൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് എന്തെങ്കിലും ചെയ്യും എന്നുള്ള വിചാരം ഉണ്ടായി. എന്നാൽ അനുഭവം വിപരീതമായിപ്പോയി എന്നുകൂടി പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊള്ളട്ടെ. ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ദയാദൃഷ്ടി ഈ ഉച്ചപ്പട്ടിണിക്കാരുടെമേൽ കൂടുതൽ പതിയണമെന്ന് ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. ആയുർവേദ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ കീഴിൽ നാലോ അഞ്ചോ സിലൈവൈദ്യശാലകൾ മാത്രമാണുള്ളതു. അതിലേക്കായി ഒരു ഇൻസ്പെക്ടരെ നിയമിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. ഒരു പേഴ്സനൽ അസിസ്റ്റൻറും ഒരു ഡയറക്ടരും ഉള്ള സ്ഥിതിക്ക് ഇപ്പോൾതന്നെ ഇതിലേക്കായി ഇനിയും ഒരു ഇൻസ്പെക്ടരെക്കൂടി നിയമിക്കേണ്ട കാര്യമില്ല. ഈഴവന് അവിടെയും പ്രവേശനം ചുരുക്കംതന്നെ. അതിനു ഒരു പരിഹാരം ഉണ്ടാക്കിത്തരുവാൻ ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. മറ്റു സംഗതികളെപ്പറ്റി അതാതു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ ധനാഭ്യർത്ഥനകൾ വരുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊള്ളാം. ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരു ബഡ്ജറ്റ് അവതരിപ്പിച്ചതിൽ ഞാൻ ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറിയെ ഒരിക്കൽക്കൂടി അഭിനന്ദിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. പറവൂർ താലൂക്കിലെ കരക്കുടിശ്ശികക്കായി വിറ്റുപോയിട്ടുള്ള വസ്തുക്കൾക്ക് കണക്കില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു

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[Mr. A. K. Kumaran Vaidyan]

ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവണ്മെൻറ് നിർബന്ധനടപടി നിറുത്തിവച്ച് ഞങ്ങളുടെ സങ്കടം തീർത്തു തരുവാനായി ഞാൻ അങ്ങയുടെ നേട്ടത്തു വിനീതമായി അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. J. E. A. PEREIRA (*Commerce and Industry-South*): Sir, at a time when the international trade has been dislocated by war, it is very gratifying to note that our finances are emerged absolutely unscathed in spite of the fact that Travancore is a maritime State and our revenue from sea borne trade used to be our main stay. But it is the sea borne trade that has been hard hit by the war and our revenues from the sea borne trade are dwindling day by day and yet we are in a happy position to balance our budget and provide for the increased expenditure. The reason is to be found in the fact that since the advent of the Dewan President the administration has launched out a big drive for industrialisation and boldly provided for productive capital expenditure, with the result we are in a happy position of receiving the yield from the commercial schemes such as Rubber Factory, Sugar Factory, Ceramic Works and returns from productive schemes such as Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Works.

Let us imagine for a moment what would have happened if the scheme for industrialisation and the profit yielding capital expenditure had not been launched out in time and we would have been at our wits end to make both ends meet. On the other hand, because of the schemes we are increasing our expenditure by 11 lakhs and still having a surplus. Therefore the policy of the present Dewan in launching on productive capital expenditure on industrialisation stands fully vindicated in all its glory.

The Government ought to be congratulated on the various methods they have adopted for reducing expenditure, such as, fixing the maximum limit for travelling allowance, abolishing progressive scales for temporary posts, amalgamating departments wherever possible and abolishing one or two civil courts which are found superfluous. All these have helped us to make a big saving of 7 lakhs which in turn goes to mitigate the big drop of 12 lakhs in the revenue.

As regards fall in the revenue of 1116, it occurs under Customs, Excise, Land Revenue and Stamps. The fall in Excise and Customs is direct result of war. Stamps perhaps indirectly. It is pleasing to see that this fall is set out by increased revenue from Forest, Salt and State Railway. Incidentally this clearly shows the elasticity of our finances.

In the estimate for 1117, it is seen that the revenue is expected to be 280·73 lakhs and the expenditure estimated to amount 279·23 lakhs, thereby leaving a surplus margin of 1·5 lakhs. But it is said that 279·23 lakhs expenditure includes a reservation of 7·26 lakhs for meeting emergencies and 2 lakhs for the army totalling 9 lakhs and odd, and when this is added to the other surplus, we get a potential surplus of 10½ lakhs.

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On a careful perusal of the budget expenditure, I find that the three main heads very essential for progress have been well provided for, and the nation building activities are being continued. For instance there is a slight increase of 1·69 lakh under Education. Under the item Capital Expenditure for Pallivasal Hydro Electric Scheme, the expenditure at the end of next year has been put down at an excess of 26 lakhs than the previous year. There is also the five years policy for works to tap the hidden resources of the Forests. Secondly, industries have been well provided for in that it is proposed to give a subsidy of 2 lakhs to a joint stock concern which comes forward to take up the manufacture of Ply Wood industry. There are also provisions for running small cottage industries. A scheme for the demonstration of the manufacture of refined jaggery is also included. And thirdly, agriculture, a matter concerning by far the major portion of the population has not been ignored. By way of collaboration with the Imperial Council, a scheme has been devised for increasing the output of paddy in the country. I have always maintained that the rehabilitation of the agricultural trade is a condition precedent for the proper stabilization of the country's prosperity and as such, I heartily welcome the experimental measure for agriculture and the help from the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute is very timely. But I do not understand in such comparatively affluence circumstances the need for resorting to new taxation on rubber, tea, cardamom and palmyra fibre. It is proposed to increase duty on tea also from Re. 1-8-0 to Rs. 2. The Financial Secretary explains that these new taxation affects only the Capitalists. In this argument, I see the seeds of communism.

PRESIDENT: That is rather fashionable argument.

MR. J. E. A. PEREIRA: Again the Financial Secretary explains that by the imposition of tax on rubber, additional tax on tea, etc. helps to ward off the levy of excess profit tax. I do not think there is any trade or industry in Travancore which makes more profit than before the war. Under the circumstances, to talk of excess profit tax is meaningless.

PRESIDENT: There is no proposition to levy tax on excess profits.

MR. J. E A. PEREIRA: I am only saying that there is not the least room for introducing excess profit tax.

PRESIDENT: The same question has been put in every other Province and the answer has been to levy a tax on excess profits.

MR. J. E. A. PEREIRA: But here the conditions are different and the trade is dwindling and there is not one trade or industry which could come under excess profit tax. I find it hard to reconcile the statement of the Financial Secretary, namely, on page 9, he says, the Government having in view the paramount necessity to make up for the fall in our Customs revenue and to provide for all emergencies at this juncture decided to impose a nominal increase in the duty on tea. I like to point out to the attention of the honourable members the words of the Financial Secretary on page 10 "The additional revenue expected from this source is about 1·75 lakh. When this is also taken into consideration, our effective revenue surplus at the close of ensuing year will be

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[Mr. J. E. A. Pereira]

over 12 lakhs." Be it noted the paramount necessity goes to augment only the surplus. The rubber industry after several years of depression has just revived in the last one or two years and the imposition of the new taxation cannot be said to be helpful to the industry, and it is my duty to point out, as a member representing Industry and Commerce that the imposition of new taxation on these trades is not justified in the circumstances we are faced with. I like to make myself very clear that in the absolute necessity of new taxation we have to and must resort to new taxation, but my contention is that we are not faced with such a situation.

In my opinion, retrenchment could be effected in other directions in such matters as broadcasting which is unnecessary especially at the time of war. I do not know how much the revenue will be by the imposition of a duty on the export of cardamom and palmyra fibre and the revision of tariff rates on fish and lemongrass oil etc.

We may be very well proud of several of our achievements. We have passed Debt Relief Act, we are providing for the necessary impetus to small cottage industries, as well as bigger industries, such as, the proposed Cement Factory and Ply Wood manufacture and we are continuing to provide for nation building work and there is the additional feature that not only our industrial schemes are beginning to repay, but also productive capital expenditure, such as, Pallivasal Scheme where we have been promised a yield of 6 lakhs as against the current year revenue of 2 lakhs. The Technological Research is helping the country by such research as fuel oil, shark liver oil etc,

Our debt position is as satisfactory as we could wish. We had already contributed Rs. 6½ lakhs to the Paramount Power for a Mine Trawler under the name "TRAVANCORE" and 2 Spitfires and Army. It is our duty and proud privilege to stand by the Paramount Power at this time of her dire need. In my opinion, we cannot think of a happier position than this year financially.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN : സർ, ഉർഘടങ്ങളും വിഷമങ്ങളും നിറഞ്ഞ ഈ യുദ്ധകാലപരിതസ്ഥിതിയിൽ സാമാന്യജനങ്ങളെ നികുതിഭാരംകൊണ്ടു ക്ലേശിപ്പിക്കാതെ, നാം ആരംഭിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വൻതരം സാമ്പത്തികപദ്ധതികളെല്ലാം തുടർന്നുകൊണ്ടുപോകുവാനുള്ള കരുതലുകളും വ്യവസ്ഥകളും ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ട് ഫിനാൻസ്സെക്രട്ടറി സമർപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ബഡ്ജറ്റ് ആശാവഹവും അഭിനന്ദനാർഹവുമാണ്. ഫ ഫ ൈ-ൽ ഫ വ ഠ .നു ലക്ഷം രൂപ വരവും അടിയന്തിരാവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കായി മാറിവച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ൻ ലക്ഷം രൂപായുംകൂടി ചിലവിനത്തിൽ കൂട്ടുമ്പോൾ, ഫ ൺ.ഫ നു ലക്ഷംരൂപാ ചിലവും ഫ.സ ഠ ലക്ഷംരൂപ മിച്ചവും വരുന്നു. ഫ ഫ സ-ൽ വ സ ഠ ലക്ഷം രൂപ മിച്ചം വരുമെന്നാണ് കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലം പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചിരുന്നതു്. കസ്റ്റംസ്, എക്സൈസ്, ലാൻഡ്റവന്യു, സ്റ്റാമ്പ്

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ഈ ഇനത്തിൽ പ്രതീക്ഷക്കനുസരിച്ച് വരവുണ്ടാകാതിരുന്നതു് പോലീസ്, പബ്ലിക് വർക്സ്, ആർമി, നീതിന്യായവകുപ്പു്, രാഷ്ട്രീയച്ചെലവു് ഈ ഇനത്തിൽ പ്രതീക്ഷിയിൽ കവിഞ്ഞു ചെലവുണ്ടാകുകയും ചെയ്തതുമൂലം ഫ്രാൻസ്-ൽ പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചിരുന്നതു പോലെ മിച്ചം കാണുവാൻ ഇടയില്ലാത്ത മാതിരിയിൽ സംഗതികൾ വന്നുനിൽക്കുന്നു എന്നു നമുക്കെല്ലാപേക്കും അറിയാം. യുദ്ധം മൂലം ഉണ്ടായ വാണിജ്യ സ്തംഭനം നമ്മുടെ വരവിനു സാരമായ സ്തംഭനമുണ്ടാക്കി. വരവിനു സ്തംഭനമുണ്ടാക്കിയ ആ മാരണ പരിസ്ഥിതികൾ തന്നെ ചെലവുകൾ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കയും ചെയ്തു. ഈ പ്രാതികൂല്യപരിതസ്ഥിതിയിൽ—മരണത്തിന്റെയും ജീവിതത്തിന്റെയും മദ്ധ്യത്തിൽ കിടന്നുദ്യോകം എരിപൊരികൊള്ളുന്ന ഈ പ്രാതികൂല്യപരിതസ്ഥിതിയിൽ പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ച പോലെ മിച്ചം ഉണ്ടാകാതിരിക്കുന്നതിൽ എനിക്കു അത്ഭുതമില്ല. ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതും ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതുമാണു് യഥാർത്ഥത്തിൽ അത്ഭുതമായിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഫാമിൻ-ൽ വരവ് നൂറ് ലക്ഷം രൂപയായിരുന്നു. ഇന്നു് അതു് ഫൈവ് ലക്ഷം ആയിരിക്കുന്നു. അതായതു് ഇരുകൊല്ലം കൊണ്ടു് ഫ്രാൻസ് ലക്ഷം രൂപാകൂടി വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ വരവ് വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നതോടൊപ്പം തന്നെ നമ്മുടെ ചെലവും വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഇന്നു കൊല്ലങ്ങൾക്കുമുൻപ് നൂറ് ലക്ഷം രൂപ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്ന നമ്മുടെ ചെലവ് ഇപ്പോൾ ഫൈൻ ലക്ഷം ആയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ പതനത്തിൽ നമ്മുടെ അവഗാഢമായ ശ്രദ്ധ പതിയേണ്ടതു് വരവു വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുക, ആ വരവ് നിത്യവും ഭദ്രവും ആയിരിക്കുവാൻ ആവശ്യമുള്ള കരുതലുകൾ ചെയ്യുക, കായ്ക്കളുടെ കാര്യക്ഷമമായ നടത്തിപ്പിനു ഉപദ്രവവും ഉലച്ചിലും വരാതെ കുറയ്ക്കുവാൻ കഴിയുന്ന ചെലവുകളെല്ലാം കുറയ്ക്കുകയും ചുരുക്കുകയും മാത്രമാണെല്ലോ. നമ്മുടെ വരവു വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുവാനുള്ള ചില മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ നിർദ്ദേശിക്കുവാൻ എനിക്കാഗ്രഹമുണ്ടു്. അതു അസംഗതമല്ലെന്നു മാത്രമല്ലാ ഒരത്യാവശ്യവും കൂടിയാണെന്നു ഞാൻ കരുതുന്നു.

(ഫ) എക്സൈസ് പരിഷ്കരിക്കുക, മദ്യം പുളിക്കാതെ പുറത്തയ്ക്കുവാനുള്ള മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ കണ്ടുപിടിക്കുക, മധുരക്കള്ളിൽനിന്നും ചക്കര, പഞ്ചസാര, മുതലായവയുണ്ടാക്കുക, ടോഡിയിൽനിന്നും പൊടോളിനു പകരം ഉപയോഗിക്കാവുന്ന ദ്രാവകം കണ്ടുപിടിക്കുവാനുള്ള പരീക്ഷണാനുഷ്ഠാനത്തിനു മുതലായവ എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും ചെയ്യുമ്പോൾ ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ വരവു നിത്യമായിനിൽക്കുവാനും വളരുവാനും ഇടയുണ്ടു്. നമ്മുടെ യുണൈവേഴ്സിറ്റിക്കാരുടെ ഗവേഷണം ആ വഴിക്കു തിരിയേണ്ടതാണു.

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[Mr. K. R. Narayanan]

(ഛ) ഉപ്പു വ്യവസായം "നാഷണലൈസ്" ചെയ്താൽ ഇന്ന് ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു കിട്ടുന്നതിനേക്കാൾ ഇരട്ടി വരവെങ്കിലും അതായതു ഇരുപതു ലക്ഷം രൂപകൂടിയെങ്കിലും കൂടുമെന്നുള്ള കാര്യം തീർത്തു പറയാവുന്നതാണ്. ടാൻസ്പോട്ട വ്യവസായങ്ങൾ "നാഷണലൈസു" ചെയ്യുവാനുള്ള ഗവർമെൻറിന്റെ ഇംഗിതത്തിന്റെ മുന്നോടിയായി കരുതാവുന്നതാണ്.

(ന) തേയില, റബ്ബർ മുതലായവയുടെ ഡ്യൂട്ടി കുറച്ചുകൂടി കൂട്ടണം. ഇതു നിരൂപണത്തിനു വിഷയമായ ഒന്നാണെന്നു എനിക്കറിയാം. മുതലാളികളും, കർഷകമുതലാളികളും ഇതിനെ എതിർത്തേക്കും. മുതലാളിമാർ ഭ്രമിക്കുന്നതു ഇനത്തിൽ ര ഛ ലക്ഷം രൂപ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു കൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു, എന്നാൽ കൃഷിവായ്പ, വ്യവസായവായ്പ, വിദ്യാഭ്യാസലോൺ എന്നിങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഇനങ്ങളിലായി ആകെ ര ഛ ലക്ഷം രൂപായുടെ അടുത്തുവരുന്ന ഒരു സംഖ്യ— ചിലവർഷം കുറച്ചു കൂടുതൽ അവർതന്നെ വാങ്ങിക്കുന്നു. ഈ യുദ്ധകാലപരിതസ്ഥിതിയിൽ മുമ്പുണ്ടായിരുന്നതിൽ ഏറ്റവും ഉചിതമായൊരു ഡ്യൂട്ടി കൂട്ടുതലായി ഏതാം, തേയില, റബ്ബർ മുതലായവക്കു ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുമ്പോൾ ഈ മുതലാളിമാർ എന്തിനാണ് ഇങ്ങനെ എരിപൊരികൊണ്ടു നിരൂപണം ചെയ്യുന്നതെന്നു ഞാൻ അത്ഭുതപ്പെടുന്നു. ഒരേക്കർ സ്ഥലത്തു കരുമുളക കൃഷിചെയ്താൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ചിലവു കഴിച്ചു പത്തുരൂപ അധികം കിട്ടും. എന്നാൽ ഒരേക്കർ സ്ഥലത്തു റബ്ബർ കൃഷിചെയ്താൽ സൂക്ഷ്മചിലവും ലോപം കൂടാതെ തള്ളിയാലും അമ്പതു രൂപാ കിട്ടുമെന്നു അനുഭവസ്ഥനായ മിസ്റ്റർ കുഞ്ഞിമൊയ്തീൻ പറയുന്നു. തേയിലയ്ക്കും, ഏലത്തിനും ഇതിലും കൂടുതൽ ആദായം കിട്ടും. തന്നെയുമല്ല, ആ വക ഉൽപ്പന്നങ്ങളുടെ താരിപ്പുവിലയും ഡ്യൂട്ടിയുമായി കണക്കാക്കിനോക്കിയാൽ മറ്റുള്ളവന്നങ്ങളുടെ ഡ്യൂട്ടിയെക്കാൾ ഈ ഡ്യൂട്ടി തുലോം കുറവാണെന്നും കാണാം. തേയിലക്ക് മുമ്പ് ഒന്നരരൂപയായിരുന്ന ഡ്യൂട്ടി. ഇപ്പോൾ അതു രണ്ടു രൂപയാക്കി. രണ്ടേകാൽ രൂപ ആക്കണമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. ചില ഉൽപ്പന്നങ്ങളുടെ ഡ്യൂട്ടി കുറയ്ക്കുകയും, ചിലതിന്റേറ കൂട്ടുകയും ചെയ്യണം. ഫ ർ ഛ രൂപാ കുരുമുളകിന്റെ താരിപ്പുവില നിന്നപ്പോഴും ഒ ഛ രൂപാതാരിപ്പു വിലയുള്ളപ്പോഴും ഡ്യൂട്ടി ഫ ഠ രൂപാ. ഒ ഠ രൂപാ നാളികേരത്തിനു ഉള്ളപ്പോഴും, ഡ്യൂട്ടി ഒന്നുതന്നെ. ഇതിന്റെ അർത്ഥം മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ലാ. മാക്കറു വില അനുസരിച്ചു താരിപ്പുവില ക്രിപ്പപ്പെടുത്തി ആ താരിപ്പുവില മാനദണ്ഡമാക്കി ഡ്യൂട്ടി നിശ്ചയിക്കണം.

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(ര) ഇങ്കംടാക സ് പിരിയേണ്ടവരിൽനിന്നും പിരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ എന്നും പിരിയുന്നതുതന്നെ പിരിയേണ്ടതുമുഴുവൻ പിരിയുന്നുണ്ടോ എന്നും എനിക്കു സംശയമാണ്. ൧൦൭൦ മുതൽ ൧൯൭൨ വരെയുള്ള ഇങ്കംടാക്സിനത്തിലുള്ള വരവ് ശരാശരി നാലുലക്ഷമാണ്. ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ കുറച്ച് ശ്രദ്ധപതിച്ചപ്പോൾ ൧൯൭൩-ൽ ൧൯.൪൫ ലക്ഷവും, ൧൯൭൪-ൽ ൧൪.൩൫ ലക്ഷവും ഉണ്ടാവുകയും ൧൯൭൫-ൽ ൧൯ ലക്ഷം ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നും പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് അനുകൂലനിലയിൽ നാം ചെന്നു നിൽക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകാർ കുറെ കൂടി ശ്രമവും ശ്രദ്ധയും കാണിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം ഇങ്കംടാക്സിൻെറ നിരക്കു കൂടാതെ തന്നെ വരവു വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ കഴിയും.

(ഭ) നമ്മുടെ ട്രാൻസ്പോർട്ട് ആലുവായ്ക്കു നീട്ടുന്നുവെന്നു കേട്ടു തുടങ്ങിയിട്ട് കാലങ്ങൾ പലതായി. അസംബ്ലിയും ട്രാൻസ്പോർട്ട് ഉപദേശകസമിതിയും ഈതിനു നിശ്ചയം പാസാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. നീട്ടുവാൻ തീരുമാനിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നുവെന്നു ഡയറക്ടർഅവർകൾ അസംബ്ലിയിൽ പ്രസ്താവിക്കുകയുംചെയ്തു. എന്നിട്ടും ലൈൻനീട്ടുന്നകാര്യം നീട്ടിനീട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടു പോകുന്നതു് എന്താണെന്നുള്ള കാര്യം അജ്ഞാതമായിരിക്കുന്നു. ആലുവായിലും കോട്ടയത്തും ട്രാൻസ്പോർട്ട് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുവക കെട്ടിടങ്ങളുമുണ്ട്. ആവശ്യമുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുണ്ട്. ഇനി വേണ്ടതു ബസ്സുകളും കുറച്ച് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും മാത്രമാണ്. ആരുമയം ചെയ്തുകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ കുറച്ചു ചിലവുകൊണ്ട് ചിലവുമായി താരതമ്യംചെയ്തുനോക്കുമ്പോൾ കൂടുതൽ ആദായമുണ്ടാക്കുവാൻ കഴിയും.

ചിലവു ചുരുക്കുവാനുള്ള മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ വിശദമായി നിർദ്ദേശിക്കുവാൻ ഈ പരിമിതമായ സമയം മതിയാവുകയില്ല. ശമ്പളച്ചിലവും പെൻഷൻ, അലവൻസ് ഇവ ഗുരുതരമായി വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നുവെന്നു പറയാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല.

൧൯൭൦-ൽ ൫൫ ലക്ഷംരൂപ ശമ്പളത്തിനുപോയി. ൧൯൭൫-ൽ അതു വന്നു ലക്ഷമായി. ൧൯൭൬-ൽ അതു ൯൬ ലക്ഷമായി. ൧൯൭൭-ൽ അതു ൯൫ ലക്ഷമായി. ൧൯൭൮-ൽ എസ്റാബ്ലിഷ്മെൻറുപ്പെടെയുള്ള ശമ്പളത്തുക ൧൦൬ ലക്ഷമാണ്. ൧൫൦ രൂപക്കു മേൽ ശമ്പളം പറ്റുന്നവർ ഇവിടെ ൭൬൫ പേരുണ്ട്. അവരിൽ ൫൦൦-ം, അതിനു മുകളിലും ശമ്പളം പറ്റുന്നവർ തന്നെ ൧൦൦പേർ വരും. ൭൦൦-ം, അതിനു മുകളിലും ശമ്പളം പറ്റുന്നവർ തന്നെ ൨൬ പേരുണ്ട്. ശമ്പളം നമ്മുടെ മൊത്തം വരവിൻെറ ഏകദേശം ൫൭ ശതമാനം ആണ്. അസംബ്ലി ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടു ദിവാൻ പ്രസിഡൻറ് അവർകൾ ചെയ്ത പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ഇവിടത്തെ ശമ്പള

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[Mr. K. R. Narayanan.]

നിരക്കു കൂടുതലല്ലെന്നു പ്രസ്താവിച്ചു. അദ്ദേഹത്തോടുള്ള ബഹുമാനത്തിനും അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തിനുള്ള തൂക്കത്തിനും സ്വാഭാവികമായ പരിഗണനയോടും കൂടി ഇതിൽ ഞാൻ വിയോജിക്കുന്നു. ൧൯൧൫-ൽ അഞ്ചര ലക്ഷം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്ന ടി. ഏ ഗവണ്മെൻറുതന്നെ കുറച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന നിലക്ക് ഇനിയും അതു കുറക്കണമെന്നു പറയുവാനുള്ള ഔചിത്യരാഹിത്യം എനിക്കില്ല. നമ്മുടെ പെൻഷൻ, അതു ഭരണകൂടത്തെ വിഴുങ്ങുവാൻ വരുന്ന ഒരുഭയങ്കരസത്വംപോലെ നമ്മെ തുറിച്ചുനോക്കുന്നു. ൧൯൦൫-ൽ ൫൹൭ ലക്ഷമായിരുന്ന പെൻഷൻ ൧൯൨൫-ൽ ൭ ലക്ഷമായി. ൧൯൩൦-ൽ അതു് ൯൹ ലക്ഷമായി. ൧൯൩൫-ൽ അതു് ൧൨ ലക്ഷമായി. ൧൯൩൯-ൽ അതു് ൧൯ ലക്ഷമായി. ൧൯൪൨-ൽ അതു് ൨൯ ലക്ഷമായി. ൧൯൪൯-ൽ ൨൨-ം, ൧൯൫൦-ൽ ൨൫-ം, ൧൯൫൧-ൽ ൨൭-ം, ൧൯൫൨-ൽ ൨൯-ം, ലക്ഷമായി അതു പെരിയാറിലെ വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കംപോലെ വർദ്ധിച്ചു. ഇതിൽ പൊളിറ്റിക്കൽപെൻഷ്യൻ തള്ളിയാൽ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ പെൻഷൻതന്നെ മൊത്തംവരവിന്റെ ൯൯ ശതമാനം വരുന്നു. ശമ്പളവും അലവൻസും പെൻഷനും കൂടി മൊത്തംവരവിന്റെ ൫൫ ശതമാനം ആകുന്നുണ്ടെന്നും ബാക്കിയുള്ളതെല്ലാകാര്യങ്ങൾക്കുംകൂടി ശേഷിക്കുന്നതു് ൫൫ ശതമാനംമാത്രമാണെന്നുമുള്ള വസ്തുത ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ സ്മരണീയമാണു്.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR ഈ കണക്കിൽ കണ്ടിൻജൻസി ഉൾപ്പെട്ടുമോ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN: ഇല്ല. ൧൯൨൭-ലെ സാലറിക്കമ്മറിറിപ്പോർട്ടും ചിലവുകുറയ്ക്കാൻ പ്രായോഗിക മാർഗ്ഗനിർദ്ദേശം ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. റിട്രഞ്ച്മെന്റ്കമ്മറിറി റിപ്പോർട്ടിന്റെ ൧൯൨൦-ാംപുറത്തു് ൧൨ ലക്ഷം രൂപയുടെ ചിലവു ചുരുക്കാൻ മാർഗ്ഗനിർദ്ദേശം ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നതിലേക്കു് ഒരിക്കൽ കൂടി ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ സത്വരശ്രദ്ധയെ ക്ഷണിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ചില ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ കായ്ക്കുറവിനു വിഘ്നംവരാത്തമാതിരിയിൽ നിറുത്തുവാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള ശ്രമം ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധ പതിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതിനു ഒരു തെളിവാണു്. നമ്മുടെ രജിസ്ട്രേഷൻ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു നിറുത്തി അതിലെ രജിസ്ട്രേഷൻ ജോലികൾ അഞ്ചൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനോടും കമ്പനി ജോലികൾ ഇങ്കംടാക്സ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനോടും സംയോജിപ്പിച്ചാൽ കായ്കുറവിനു യാതൊരു വിഘാതവും വരുത്താതെ മുൻപോട്ടു പോകാൻ കഴിയും. വളരെ സൂക്ഷിച്ചുനോക്കിയാൽ ചില വലിയ ആഫീസുകളിലെ പല ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളും കായ്കുറവിനു വിഘാതം വരാത്തമാതിരിയിൽ കുറയ്ക്കാവുന്നതാണു്. എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തിൽ അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗ

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ങ്ങാം നിറുത്തുന്നത് ഒരു ട്രാൻസ്ഫേർഡ് ഓപ്പറേഷനാണു. അതിനുള്ള സ്ഥലമെണ്ണിയുള്ള ഒരു വിശദീകരണത്തിനു ഞാൻ ഇപ്പോൾ തുനിയുന്നില്ല. ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ കാണുന്ന രണ്ടു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിന്റെ വരവിനങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ചുകൂടി അൽപ്പം ചില സംഗതികൾ പറഞ്ഞാൽ കൊള്ളാമെന്നു ഞാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നു. ട്രാൻസ്പോർട്ട് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലേക്കു ഫ ഫ ൨-ൽ പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കുന്ന വരവു് ഫ വ,൬൫,൫൦൦ രൂപായും ചിലവു് ഫ സ,൫൪,൫൦൦ രൂപായും മിച്ചം ൫,൫൦,൦൦൦ രൂപായുമാണു്. ഫ ഫ സ-ൽ പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചിരുന്ന ലാഭം ഫ,൫൯,൯൦ഫ രൂപായാണു്. അതു് സ൩,൯൫൦ ആയി കുറഞ്ഞു. അതായതു് പ്രതീക്ഷയുടെ നേർപകുതിയായി കുറഞ്ഞു. ഫ ഫ സ-ൽ "കാൺടിബ്യൂഷൻ ടു ദി ട്രാൻസ്പോർട്ട് ഇൻഷ്വറൻസ് ഫണ്ടു്" ഇനത്തിൽ സ൫,൦൦൦ രൂപ കൊടുക്കുവാൻ ബഡ്ജറു ചെയ്തിരുന്നതിൽ ൫൦൦ രൂപ മാത്രമാണു കൊടുത്തതെന്നു് ബഡ്ജറിന്റെ ൪൯-ാം പുറത്തുനിന്നു കാണാം. സ൩,൯൦൦ രൂപ ഫ ഫ സ-ൽ ലാഭമുണ്ടായിയെന്നു കാണിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതിൽ സ൫,൭൦൦ രൂപ കൂടി സ൩,൯൦൦ രൂപയിൽനിന്നു കുറച്ചാൽ ശേഷിക്കുന്ന മിച്ചം സ൫,സ൦൦ രൂപയാണു്. അതായതു് ഫ ഫ സലേയ്ക്കു് പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചിരുന്നതിൽ നാലിലൊന്നു്. ട്രാൻസ്പോർട്ട് ബസ്സുകളിൽ പ്പോഴും ആളു നിറയെകാണാം. കൂലി പ്രൈവറ്റുബസ്സുകളിലുണ്ടായിരുന്നതിനെക്കാൾ കുറച്ചിട്ടില്ലെന്നുമാത്രമല്ലാ, അല്പം കൂട്ടിയിട്ടും ഉണ്ടു്. പിന്നീടു ഈ ചോർച്ച എങ്ങനെ വരുന്നുവെന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാൻ പ്രയാസമായിരിക്കുന്നു. കുണ്ടറ കളിമൺഫാക്ടറിയിൽനിന്നും ഫ ഫ സ-ലേക്കു് പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചിരുന്ന ലാഭം ഫ,൫൦,൦൦൦ രൂപയാണു്. റിവൈസ്ഡു എസ്റ്റിമേറിൻപ്രകാരം ഫ ഫ സ-ൽ ലഭിക്കുവാനിടയുള്ളതു് ൬൭,൦൦൦ രൂപയാണു. ചിലവിനത്തിൽ "ഡിപ്രിസിയേഷൻ ആഫ് മെഷിനെറി ആൻറ് ബിൽഡിങ്ങ്സ്" ഇനത്തിൽ കൊള്ളിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ൫൦,൦൦൦ രൂപ (പേജ് ൪൯ ഫ ഫ ൨-ലെ ബഡ്ജറു്) ചിലവായതായി കാണുന്നില്ല. ആ ൫൦,൦൦൦ രൂപ കൂടി ചിലവാകാതെ കിടക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ലാഭം ൭,൦൦൦ രൂപ മാത്രമാണു് (൬൭,൦൦൦ — ൫൦,൦൦൦ = ൭,൦൦൦; കളിമൺ ഫാക്ടറിയുടെ വരവിനത്തിൽ ഈ വർഷത്തേയ്ക്കു് എ. ബി. സി. എന്നു മൂന്നിനത്തിലായി സ൩,സ൫൦,൫൦൦ രൂപ കൊള്ളിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിൽ എ. ചൈനാക്ലേയിൽ നിന്നുള്ള വരവായിരിക്കണം. ഇതുതന്നെ ഏകദേശം രണ്ടു ലക്ഷം വരും. ആർട്ടിക്കിൾസ് വിറ്റുള്ള വരവിൽ പ്രധാനമായതു് ഇവിടത്തെ വാട്ടർവർക്സിനു പൈപ്പു് കൊടുക്കുന്നതിൽനിന്നുള്ള വരവാകുവാനേ ഇടയുള്ളു. ഈ വരവും പിഞ്ഞാണം, കളിക്കോപ്പുകൾ

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[Mr. K. R. Narayanan.]

മുതലായവ വിറ്റുള്ള വരവും ചൈനാക്ലേ വിറ്റുള്ള വരവുമായി താരതമ്യം ചെയ്യുമ്പോൾ തുലോം തുച്ഛമാണ്. ചൈനാക്ലേ പുറത്തേക്കയക്കുന്ന വ്യവസായം മാത്രം നടത്തുവാനാണെങ്കിൽ വക്കിങ്ങ് ഏക്സപൊർസ് ഇത്രയും ആവശ്യമില്ല. പാത്രങ്ങളും മറ്റുമുണ്ടാക്കി വിൽക്കുന്ന വ്യവസായത്തിന്റെ ജയാപജയങ്ങളും ലാഭനഷ്ടങ്ങളും എങ്ങനെയിരിക്കുന്നുവെന്ന് വ്യക്തമായി അറിയുവാൻ ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ സൗകര്യമില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നതു് ശ്ലാഘനീയമായിരിക്കുന്നില്ല.

ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണം ഇന്നലെയും ഇന്നും ദിവാൻജി അവർകളുടെയും ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ചില മെംബറന്മാരുടെയും നിരൂപണത്തിനും അഭിപ്രായത്തിനും വിഷയമായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ച് അനുകൂലവും പ്രതികൂലവുമായ പല നിരൂപണങ്ങളും പുറത്തു വന്നുതുടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇവിടെ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണത്തിനുവേണ്ടി ഉൽക്കടമായ ഒരു പ്രക്ഷോഭണം നടന്നതു എല്ലാവക്കും അറിയാം. ഇപ്പോഴും അതു ഭരണം വരുത്തുവാനുള്ള ശ്രമം സാവധാനമായി നടക്കുന്നുമുണ്ട്. ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ നില ദൃഢമായും വിശദമായും ദിവാൻ പ്രസിഡൻറ വർകൾ അസന്നിശ്ചിതമായ ഭാഷയിൽ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകഴിഞ്ഞു. ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണം അത്യുദാത്തമാണെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. അതു ഭരണത്തിന്റെ മാധുര്യം ഭരണം ശരിക്കു നടക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അസ്വാദ്യവുമാണ്. രാഷ്ട്രീയ പ്രബുദ്ധത, വിദ്യാഭ്യാസപുരോഗതി മുതലായവ പരിഗണിച്ചാൽ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണത്തിനു പാകത്വവന്നിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു നാട്ടുരാജ്യമാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണം നടന്നിട്ടുള്ള ഇൻഡ്യൻപ്രവിശ്യകളിൽ പ്രബലസമുദായങ്ങൾ പ്രാബല്യമില്ലാത്ത സമുദായങ്ങളെ ഞെക്കിഞെരടിപ്പിഴിഞ്ഞു രാഷ്ട്രീയ'രസ'മനുഭവിക്കുകയും സാധുക്കളുടെ ഉച്ചിയിൽ കയറിനിന്ന് കസർത്തുചെയ്ത് സുഖിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതിന്റെ ലക്ഷ്യങ്ങൾ ഇൻഡ്യൻപ്രവിശ്യകളിൽ— കാൺഗ്രസ്ഭരണം നടന്നിട്ടുള്ള ഇൻഡ്യൻപ്രവിശ്യകളിലും അപൂർവ്വമല്ല. ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണത്തിനുവേണ്ടി വാദിയ്ക്കുകയും അതു കൈവരുത്തി നേതൃത്വം വഹിക്കുകയും ചെയ്ത മെസ്സേഴ്സ് രാജഗോപാലാചാരി, സത്യമൂർത്തി മുതലായവരിൽനിന്ന്, അവരെപ്പോലെയുള്ള ആളുകളിൽ നിന്നും അംബ്ദ്കർമാരുടെയും ജിന്നായുടെയും സമുദായങ്ങൾക്കുണ്ടായ വിഷമങ്ങളെയാണ് ഞാൻ മൂണ്ടിക്കാണിക്കുന്നതു്. ഇവിടെ പ്രായപൂർത്തി വോട്ടവകാശം മാത്രംപോരാ, ന്യൂനപക്ഷങ്ങൾക്കും ചില പ്രത്യേക സമുദായങ്ങൾക്കും രക്ഷാവ്യവസ്ഥകൾകൂടി വേണം. ജനസംഖ്യകൂടുതലുണ്ടെങ്കിലും

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ഇവിടുത്തെ ഈഴവർ ഈ വിധമുള്ള രക്ഷാവ്യവസ്ഥകൾ അവശ്യമുള്ള ഒരു സമുദായമാണ്. ഇതു രണ്ടും ശരിക്കുറപ്പിക്കാതെ സമ്മതിക്കാതെ ഉത്തരവാദിതപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനു വാദിക്കുമ്പോൾ അങ്ങനെയുള്ള സമുദായങ്ങൾക്കു ആശങ്കയും ഉൽക്കണ്ഠയും ഉണ്ടു്. സമുദായങ്ങളും സമുദായതാൽപ്പര്യങ്ങളും നിലനിൽക്കുന്നിടത്തോളം കാലം സമുദായതാൽപ്പര്യങ്ങൾക്കു പരിരക്ഷണം നൽകാത്ത ഉത്തരവാദിതപ്പെടുത്തൽ ആ സമുദായങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം അമ്മയെക്കൊട്ടത്തു് ഭ്രാന്തിയേ വാങ്ങിക്കുന്ന ഉത്തരവാദിതപ്പെടുത്തലായിരിക്കും. ഞാൻ പ്രതിനിധീകരിക്കുന്ന നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തെയും സമുദായത്തെയും കുറിച്ചു് രണ്ടുവാക്കു് പറയാതെ ഈ പ്രസംഗം ഉപസംഹരിക്കുന്നതു് ഒരു വലിയ ക്രൂരവിലോപമാണെന്നു എനിക്കറിയാം. കോട്ടയത്തും കുമരകത്തും ജലവിതരണപദ്ധതികൾക്കു് ഇക്കൊല്ലം കുറെ സംഖ്യ കൊള്ളിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോടുള്ള കൃതജ്ഞത പ്രകാശിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളട്ടെ. വയ്ക്കം, ജനനിബിഡമായ ഒരു കായൽതീരപ്രദേശമാണു്. ആ കായൽതീരപ്രദേശം മുഴുവനും വേനൽക്കാലത്തു് ഉപ്പുവെള്ളമല്ലാതെ ശുദ്ധവെള്ളം കിട്ടുകയില്ല. വർഷകാലത്തു വയ്ക്കത്തെ വെള്ളത്തിനു് സാമാന്യത്തിലധികം തടിപ്പു കൂടും. ചുരുക്കത്തിൽ വേനൽക്കാലത്തും വർഷകാലത്തും വയ്ക്കത്തു് നല്ലവെള്ളമില്ല. വേഴാമ്പലിനു് ചില മാസങ്ങളിൽ നല്ല വെള്ളത്തിനു പ്രാർത്ഥിച്ചാൽ മതി. വയ്ക്കത്തെ മനുഷ്യവേഴാമ്പലുകൾക്കു് ഫ വ മാസവും ശുദ്ധജലത്തിനു് മുകളിലേക്കു നോക്കി പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കണം ജനനിബിഡമായ വയ്ക്കം താലൂക്കിൽ ഒരൊറ ആശുപത്രിമാത്രമാണുള്ളതു്. ഇതു് അത്യാസന്നരക്ഷണത്തിനു് എത്രമാത്രം അപര്യാപ്തമാണെന്നു് ഞാൻ വിവരിക്കണമെന്നില്ലല്ലോ. ഉള്ള ആശുപത്രിയിൽത്തന്നെ ഒരു ലേഡീഡോക്ടർ വേണമെന്നുള്ള ഞങ്ങളുടെ മുറവിളി പ്രസവമുറികളിൽ വയറാറാട്ടികളുടെ അശാസ്ത്രീയമായ സേവനത്തിനു വിധേയമായി നിൽക്കുന്ന സാധു പെൺകുട്ടികളുടെ ദീനരോദനംപോലെ ആവർത്തിച്ചാവർത്തിച്ചു് ചെയ്തിട്ടും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു മേലദ്ധ്യക്ഷർക്കു് അറിവുണ്ടാകുന്നില്ല. അടുത്തകാലത്തു് മസൂരി വന്നു് ടൗണിൽ മരിച്ചവരുടെ ശവശരീരങ്ങൾ കുഴലിൽക്കൂടി ഒഴുകി നടന്നതായി വായിക്കുവാനും അറിയുവാനും ഇടയായി. വയ്ക്കം ടൗണിൽ സാധുക്കൾക്കു് ശവം മറവുചെയ്വാൻ സ്ഥലമില്ല. വയ്ക്കത്തെ കായലോരത്തു ഗവണ്മെൻറു കൈവശത്തിൽ നാലേക്കറിൽക്കൂടുതൽ സ്ഥലമുള്ളതായി എനിക്കു് അറിയാം. ഇതിൽ അര ഏക്കറെങ്കിലും സാധുക്കളുടെ ശവം മറവുചെയ്വാൻ കൊടുക്കുന്നതു് ശ്ലാഘനീയമായിരിക്കും. വയ്ക്കത്തു് കായൽതീരപ്രദേശത്തെ പട്ടിണിയേയും പഞ്ഞത്തെയും കുറിച്ചു് വർണ്ണിക്കുവാൻ

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[Mr. K. R. Narayanan]

എനിക്ക വാക്കുകളില്ല. എല്ലുകറം തോലിൽപൊതിഞ്ഞ കുറെ ഇരുകാലിമാട്ടകാം അങ്ങുമിങ്ങും അലഞ്ഞുനടന്ന് ഉടക്കാനും കുടിപ്പാനുമില്ലാതെ മരണത്തിന്റെയും ജീവിതത്തിന്റെയും മദ്ധ്യേ കിടന്ന പിടക്കുന്ന കാഴ്ച ഏറ്റവും ദയനീയമാണ്. കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലം ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ദിവാൻജി അവർകളും ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി അവർകളും സ്ഥലത്തുവന്ന കുറെ റിലീഫ് വേലകറം അനുവദിച്ചു. ൭൦൦ രൂപാമുടക്കി ഒരു കയർ പിരി വ്യവസായശാല തുടങ്ങി. ഈ വ്യവസായശാലകൊണ്ടു പ്രതിദിനം സാമാന്യക്കാരായ ൫൦൦ വീട്ടുകാരുടെ പട്ടിണിക്ക് ശമനം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നുണ്ട്. റിലീഫ് വക്കുകൊണ്ടു കുറച്ചെല്ലാം ശമനം ലഭിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിനുവേണ്ടി ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോടു നന്ദി പ്രകാശിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ ഞാൻ ഈ അവസരം വിനിയോഗിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. പബ്ളിക്ക് സർവീസിൽ ഈഴവരുടെനില നിരാശാജനകമാംവണ്ണം ശോചനീയമാണ്. എന്റെ സ്നേഹിതൻ മിസ്റ്റർ കുമാരൻവൈദ്യൻ പബ്ളിക്ക് സർവീസ് കമ്മീഷണരുടെ പോസ്റ്റ് നിരുത്തണമെന്നഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടു. യഥാർത്ഥത്തിൽ നിരുത്തണമെന്നല്ല അദ്ദേഹം ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതെന്നു അദ്ദേഹത്തെ അടുത്തു പരിചയമുള്ള എനിക്ക് മനസ്സിലാക്കാൻ കഴിയും. മരണവേദന എടുക്കുന്ന ഒരു രോഗി വല്ലവണ്ണവും മരിക്കണമെന്നു പറയുന്നതു് യഥാർത്ഥത്തിൽ മരിക്കുവാനല്ലഎന്നു് നമുക്കെല്ലാവർക്കും അറിയാവുന്നതാണല്ലോ. പബ്ളിക്ക് സർവീസ് കമ്മീഷണരുടെ നിയമനത്തിന്റെ ശേഷവും സമുദായത്തിന്റെ സങ്കടം ശമിക്കാത്ത വേദനകൊണ്ടാണ് മിസ്റ്റർ വൈദ്യൻ ഇങ്ങനെ പ്രസ്താവിക്കാനിടയായതെന്ന് അങ്ങും മനസ്സിലാകുന്നതാണ്. പബ്ളിക്ക സർവീസ് കമ്മീഷണരുടെ നിയമനത്തിനു ശേഷം എങ്ങിനെയെല്ലാം സമുദായം വിഷമതകളനുഭവിക്കുന്നുവെന്നും അതിന്റെ കാരണമെന്തെല്ലാമാണെന്നും ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ ഡിമാൻഡു വരുമ്പോഴും ഞാൻ പ്രതിപാദിക്കുമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. എങ്കിലും ഒരു സംഗതി ഇപ്പോൾതന്നെ മൂന്നിക്കാണിക്കുവാൻ ഞാൻ നിർബന്ധിതനാണ്. ൧൯൪൧-നുശേഷം ൫൦൦ രൂപക്കുമേലുള്ള ഒരൊറ്റ നിയമനം മാത്രമാണ് ഈഴവക്ക് കിട്ടിയിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഇന്നു സർവീസിലിരിക്കുന്നവരിൽ ൪൦൦ രൂപക്കുമേൽ ശമ്പളമുള്ള ഈഴവരുടെ സംഖ്യ വെറും ൨ മാത്രമാണ്. ഇതിൽ സമുദായത്തിനു വരാവുന്ന വിഷമങ്ങൾ ഒരുവായി ഗവണ്മെൻറും പബ്ളിക്ക് സർവീസ് കമ്മീഷണരും പരിഗണിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

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(President called C. Jebamony Nadar to speak. The member was not in his seat).

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI : Sir, last year vehement criticism was levelled against the Financial Secretary and his budget, so much so that we see quite a different person occupying his seat this time. I do not therefore want to criticise the budget fearing that we may lose him for the next year. Sir, much was said in this House about responsible Government. We have every right to demand responsible Government as our State is educationally and politically far more advanced than any other Indian State. A Travancorean of no small fame is already the Dewan of a not unimportant Indian State. It is true we send elected representatives from this House to the Senate of the University, and some of the advisory bodies and committees everywhere with very limited authority. To use a quotation "Travancore has been progressing by leaps and bounds". It is the language of some eminent Indian journalist whose name the Financial Secretary does not divulge. In spite of this we are not given a more direct share in the Government of the State . Statesmen and others who visit the State are impressed with the glories of Travancore not the least among which is a highly advanced society with a keen political sense. Is it not that we have advanced in various directions? True Sir, there was some political unrest but that has been quelled successfully by resorting to timely and stringent measures. The present political atmosphere is conveniently calm. Therefore the present time is most opportune to grant this political reform to the people. In my adjournment motion I wanted to present these facts before the House. Of course there is the war going on in Europe—one of the cruellest and most devastating of wars ever fought. But I hope that or any other international situation will not deter us in our international political ambitions. Sir, we are far advanced into the twentieth century. We see a steady and onward march around us. It is essential that we should keep pace with the changing times. I fervently pray that His Highness the Maharaja would be gracious enough to confer with his trusted and able Minister to evolve some measure of administrative reform to enable the people to take a more direct share in the Government of the State.

Sir, I had tabled another adjournment motion regarding the havoc done by the recent floods in Thiruvella taluk which also includes Chengannur. Many parts of Thiruvella and Chengannur were under water for many days. The traffic between Mavelikara and Tiruvella was made impossible owing to a breach on the road and the breach is still there and nothing has been done to it yet by the P. W. Department. Neither of the two Chief Engineers has any knowledge of this breach till this morning. Sir, there is also another important thing which I should bring to the notice of the House. That is about the soil erosion in the eastern districts which fill up river beds and causes floods in our rivers during the monsoon season. In America strict legislation has been introduced to prevent soil erosion. What amount of soil is brought down can be seen by a look at that part of the

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Manimala river near the bridge. When the bridge was constructed its height from the river bottom was 15 feet and now a man can scarcely pass under the bridge. The condition of the stretch of land at Mannar between ചെന്നിത്തല and പന്തളം is always in danger of being flooded with water. Much damage is likely to be caused if the P. W. D. does not work sharp.

Another matter which I want to bring to the notice of this House is the want of accommodation for the members of this House during its sessions in Trivandrum. Though the Chief Secretary said in answer to a question on the floor of this House that there is accommodation for them in the Sachivottama Shastiabdapurthi Memorial Satram the satram being very popular it is always crowded by pilgrims from far off lands. Moreover it is far away from the Legislative Chamber and the Legislative Library. It is very essential to have accommodation for the honourable members somewhere in the vicinity of the Legislative Chamber so that we can easily have access to the Library.

Then Sir, with regard to the irrigation I wish to speak a word or two with particular reference to Tiruvella taluk. I may say Sir, that the P. W. Department has neglected the needs of that taluk so far as irrigation is concerned. In my opinion Sir, the abolition of the Irrigation Division has done very great harm. Therefore my humble suggestion is that this division may be re-established under a separate Executive Engineer.

Now I want to bring to the notice of this House another instance of inordinate delay on the part of the Government. The ryots who have freely given their lands to open fresh roads in the Tiruvella taluk are put to the necessity of paying taxes for those lands due to the Department's delay in taking over those roads. There are 400 miles of ryots roads in that taluk and the Government have saved not less than 20 lakhs of rupees. The taluks of Tiruvella and Mavelikara are now being brought closer and the vehicular traffic on the road is considerable. There are three lines of motor buses in operation between the two places though the distance is only 12 miles. These services between them run 18 times in both directions. There are three ferries on this road. It is very necessary to construct a bridge at പുളിക്കീഴ്. There is another place giving danger to traffic *viz.* കുന്നംകര. Something has to be done here also.

Sir, one word more about the Executive Council. The President said this morning that the Executive Council members are not intended for doing Secretariat work. Sir, I never meant that. What I wanted was that the members should move about and get in contact with the people in the various parts of the country and ascertain their needs. The Dewan said he has not enough work to engage his whole time. I would request you Sir, that in view of your statement that you do not find enough work, you would make it possible for you to move about more frequently and put yourself in touch with the common people and get yourself acquainted with their conditions and receive representations on the spot and dispose of the same then and there.

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PRESIDENT: The honourable member has two minutes more.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, I too have great pleasure to congratulate the Financial Secretary on the thoroughness and lucidity of the budget which has been presented to us. The introduction of the new system of the presentation of a budget memorandum along with the usual budget estimate is a matter for sincere gratification in so far as it helps to a considerable extent to correct study and proper scrutiny by the Legislature of the forecasting of the revenue and expenditure for next year. But, Sir, I may be permitted to state at the outset that the supply of the copy of the budget to the members of the Legislature along with the official presentation of the same has been causing much inconvenience and handicap to the non-official members of this House particularly. The practice usually followed by the Government in regard to the budget sessions of the first Assembly was to supply the copy of the budget to the members of the Legislature at least a week before the official presentation of the same and it was then possible for the members to study and scrutinise the budget correctly and properly. Sir, the budget and the budget memorandum which have been presented to us contain about 510 pages of closely printed matter. And how is it possible for us to study the whole thing within so short a period? Sir, I am sure that it will certainly be conducive to the public interest and also to a better standard of debate if the copy of the budget is furnished to the members of the Legislature earlier as it would afford them sufficient opportunity to scrutinise and study things correctly and I trust that you will be pleased to issue instructions accordingly for future guidance.

Sir, at this critical juncture of alarming international situation and widespread economic depression, it is gratifying to note that Government have been able to present a surplus budget without having recourse to any additional or new taxation on the ryot. But, Sir, judging from the results of the current year, I have my honest doubt whether there will really be a surplus towards the close of the next year as has been anticipated by the Financial Secretary in his budget estimate. This year, though the Government anticipated a total revenue of Rs. 285.40 lakhs, the revenue is expected to be Rs. 273·09 lakhs, so much so there is a diminution of Rs. 12.31 lakhs in the anticipated revenue. The anticipated surplus in the current year's budget is Rs. 8.67 lakhs and in the ordinary course of events, deducting Rs. 8.67 lakhs from Rs. 12.31 lakhs, the year would have closed with a deficit of Rs. 3.64 lakhs. But that is not the case, and the current year is expected on the other hand to close with a surplus of Rs. 5·48 lakhs because Government have reduced, deliberately, I must say, the expenditure to that extent and they have shown a surplus at the end of the current year. I am not at all therefore very much concerned with the nomenclature of the budget whether it is a surplus or a defficit one. The only consideration for us ought to be whether the financial position of Government is satisfactory and sound. Sir, I am one who

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has every reason to believe that the financial position of our Government is bound to be strong and sound in the hands of the present head of the administration. As a practising lawyer I am sure that there will be considerable diminution in the anticipated revenue from court fees stamps as a result of the operation of the Travancore Debt Relief Act. In the same way as it is obvious from the answer given to interpellation No. 26, which was answered on the floor of the House today, that the anticipated income from the State Transport Department is also sure to go down during the next year.

Having said so much about the budget I wish to make a few observations in regard to the administrative policy in general. Sir, Travancore has been fortunate enough to enjoy the beneficial and far-reaching results of your far-sighted statesmanship. You have always been successful in all your attempts made with a view to safeguard and maintain the rights, interests and prestige of this country. But, Sir, I have always been thinking why you have not yet been pleased to devote your attention on a very important question, adverted to at page 14 of the budget memoranda, *viz.*, the Interportal Trade Convention. Sir, the Interportal Trade Convention was entered into between the Travancore Government and the Government of India in 1865 when the average amount of customs collected in the State was only Rs. 53,218.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. Any discussion of the Interportal Trade Convention will introduce matters which had been under discussion ever since the Federal Scheme was adumbrated; and all that I wish to say is that nothing has exercised the mind of this Government more than the Interportal Trade Convention and all that it signifies and all that should be done having regard to the solitary fact that it was entered into at a time when the trade of Travancore was one-seventh of the present trade. Therefore honourable members may rest assured that during the whole of these and future discussions, the policy underlying the Interportal Trade Convention will form the subject of negotiation. But I would ask honourable members, apart from exercising my powers as President to over-rule it as inadmissible—I do not want to do that—to be assured that this Government have bestowed their very anxious and continuous attention and will continue to do so on all that the Interportal Trade Convention means and connotes.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: In view of the explanatory statement made by the Chair I will only conclude this point by saying that it is but legitimate on the part of this Government to demand a revision of the Interportal Trade Convention which is now 76 years old and which has no justification for its continuance under the present altered conditions.

Then, Sir, with regard to the possibilities of the manifold advantages that are expected to result from the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to bring to the pointed attention of the House and the Government a very important matter. Sir,

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during the discussion on the adjournment motion moved by my friend Mr. Dominic Joseph with a view to consider the necessity to formulate a definite scheme for producing paddy in the State sufficient to meet the needs of the country, you have remarked that the object could be achieved by intensive cultivation and it is not likely to be achieved by the extension of paddy cultivation in the State. Then the essential requirement for intensive cultivation is, according to me, manure. And the question of sufficient supply of manure has become a very serious problem with the agriculturists in the State, Sir, I am an agriculturist and I have realised the importance and the substantial usefulness of the application of scientific manure. The manure which was worth only Rs. 3 is now worth about Rs. 14 and scientific manure cannot be manufactured in our country. It has to be imported into the State from America and such other foreign countries. So unless the problem of manure is solved satisfactorily, there is no scope for any intensive cultivation or any improvement in this direction. It has become almost impossible for the agriculturists to go in for such scientific manure, the cost of which has, of late, become rather prohibitive. Even those agriculturists who can afford to pay for and purchase the scientific manure, will not venture to do so on account of the loss that they may sustain due to the exhorbitant price of manure. So my submission is that the Government may be pleased to take the necessary steps for the manufacture of scientific manure in Travancore with the aid of electricity. I am given to understand that thereby it will be possible for us to produce scientific manure at a cheap cost. Fortunately for us we have got our research department also. So I would request Government to bestow deserving attention on this important question.

Sir, connected with this question I have to urge upon the attention of Government the prejudicial results of leasing out, by the Fishery Department, the poramboke thodus, chals and tanks for fishing purposes. Sir, the income derived from this source is very meagre and I am personally aware that many poramboke thodus, chals and tanks in my constituency Tiruvalla which are the only means of irrigation have been leased out by the Fishery Department for a very nominal amount. On account of the fishing operations in these areas the water is made muddy and useless both for irrigating the paddy cultivation and for the needs of animals and it causes considerable damage and loss to extensive areas under paddy cultivation surrounding these poramboke thodus, chals and tanks. Sir, the Karshika Mahasabha consisting of the representatives of all the karas in the Tiruvalla taluk have unanimously passed a resolution very recently praying that Government may be pleased to put a stop to this policy and thus protect the agriculturists from great loss and damage that are being caused to the paddy cultivation on account of this suicidal policy of Government. May I trust Sir, that this will receive the sympathetic consideration of Government?

In this connection I also wish to bring to the notice of Government the very valuable recommendations contained in the report submitted by the sub-committee appointed by the Board of Agriculture to investigate into the question of intensive cultivation in Central Travancore. The Malayala Rajyam dated 8-12-1116 says that that

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report has been forwarded to Government for favourable consideration by the President of the Board of Agriculture. May I trust, Sir, that those recommendations will receive the sympathetic consideration of Government ?

Coming to the Education Department, I am personally aware of the serious situation and the very pitiable condition brought about by the introduction of a new system in the manner of disbursing the salary of the primary school teachers in the State Sir, a new system has been introduced in the Education Department with regard to the manner of disbursement of the salaries of the poor primary school teachers in the State. The old system was that the headmasters of primary schools had to submit the salary bills to the Assistant Inspectors concerned and after getting them countersigned by them they could present the bills to the sub-treasury and get their salaries with the fifth of every month.

According to the new system the bills have to be submitted by the headmasters to the Assistant Inspectors and the head clerks according to their sweet will and pleasure have to prepare a consolidated bill for all the schools concerned and forward the same to the treasury. Then the treasury will accept that consolidated bill and issue cash orders of the respective schools to the Assistant Inspectors who will send them in their turn to the head masters concerned. The head masters have to present the bills to the treasury for encashment. What amount of unnecessary delay and trouble is caused by the new change may be illustrated by an example. Let us take the M. P. School Peruvanthanam. The Assistant Inspector's office where the head master has to submit the bill is Kottayam the distance being 40 miles. The cash order has to be presented by the head master in the Peermade treasury, the distance being 52 miles. Who will pay the travelling allowance. What is the result of the new change. Delay and starvation are the inevitable consequence. This change has unnecessarily increased the work in the treasury and in the office of the Assistant Inspector.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR: The question of reverting to the old system is now being considered.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: I am very thankful to the Government for that. This has created much trouble and inconvenience to the teachers whose condition even otherwise is pitiable.

One word about the recommendation of responsible committees appointed by Government and consisting of elected members of the legislature. These committees are appointed with a view to enable them to participate in the administration of the state to some extent and if the Government are not going to pay attention to the recommendations submitted by the committees, it may be deemed as an insult to the Legislature.

PRESIDENT: Will the honourable member exemplify his statement ?

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MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : Sir, I am constrained to make this observation on account of my sad experience with regard to one particular matter. The question of constructing a bridge at Kollakadavu has been engaging the attention of Government for the last 2 decades and in the administration report Government have stated 6 years ago that the work will be taken up and completed during the next year itself. I am given to understand that the P. W. D. Advisory Committee appointed by Government have been unanimous in their opinion with regard to the urgent necessity for the early construction of this bridge. I am also given to understand from the answers given by Government to certain interpellations that were answered on the floor of this House that the P. W. D. Advisory Committee has recommended the inclusion of the necessary provision for the construction of this bridge in the current year's budget. I am really sorry that sufficient provision has not been included in this year's budget. Only a small sum of Rs. 10,000 has been included in this budget. The bridge will cost at least Rs. 50,000. It is a question of all—Travancore importance and not merely one of local need alone. I shall refer to this subject again when opportunity arises for the purpose.

With these observations, I resume my seat.

MR. P. SIVARAMA PILLAI : Sir, I am glad to note that the speech of the Financial Secretary introducing the budget for the next year is the shortest in recent years. At the same time he has been successful in presenting the financial situation of the country in a lucid and comprehensive manner. The budget memorandum supplemented to the speech is really helpful in explaining the details.

As usual a surplus budget has been presented before the House this year also, while the actuals of 1115 have resulted in a deficit. The revised estimates for 1116 anticipates a surplus of 5·48 lakhs of rupees. I do not feel overjoyed at the surplus budget placed before us and I shall not be surprised if next year at this time, the Financial Secretary tells us that the actuals of 1116 have really ended in a deficit. I am not enamoured of a surplus budget nor am I depressed at a deficit budget. If sufficient provision is made for nation building activities and social services, I shall be satisfied.

The Financial Secretary has made much of the retrenchment measures adopted by the Government to reduce the expenditure. It is a matter of some consolation that at least now, the Government have realised the extreme necessity of reducing the evergrowing expenditure, I believe that they have only touched the fringes of the problem. There are still several items of unnecessary expenditure which can still be reduced considerably, without impairing efficiency to any extent. There still exists several unnecessary posts like the evergrowing army of assistants in most of the departments about which I have been repeatedly speaking in this House. Though travelling allowances of the poor ministerial staff has been reduced considerably the permanent travelling allowance of most of the officers have been left intact. It

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would appear that permanent travelling allowance has become a part of their salary and no body seems to care whether the officers concerned do travel the prescribed minimum or not.

While the expenditure charged to revenue is thus steadily growing, I have my own serious doubts as to how far the expectations of the Financial Secretary as to revenue will be realised in these uncertain times. In the present paralysed state of world trade, there must inevitably be a fall in our customs revenue. Although the Financial Secretary has anticipated increase in the receipts from the Commercial Transport, Porcelain Factory and such other undertakings; our past experience do not justify the expectations under most of them. Under these circumstances I would urge upon the Government the extreme necessity of taking more stringent measures to reduce the expenditure.

Sir, you have been emphasising the extreme necessity for tapping the hidden natural resources of the State as well as launching boldly upon an industrialisation programme. In pursuance of that policy, we have launched upon certain large scale commercial undertakings the chief of which are the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme, the Transport Scheme, the Porcelain Factory and the Rubber Factory.

The Hydro-Electric Scheme on which we have already expended 1½ crores of rupees promised to be a paying concern under the efficient control of Mr. K. P. P. Menon. Let us hope that with the completion of the negotiations with the Cochin State and with the extension of Power Supply to Punja cultivation and with the opening of the Aluminium Factory, the return from the scheme will be further augmented.

Now Sir, coming to the Commercial Transport, our total investment till now is more than Rs. 10 lakhs. The Financial Secretary expects, that with the use of charcoal gas, and with the opening of more lines next year, the scheme will bring in substantial receipts. This was the expectation of the former Financial Secretary also. Sir, he expected to open seven more lines during the current year of which only one line has been opened. I mean the Quilon-Shencottah line. But the present Financial Secretary tells us, that last year's expectations have not been realised as a direct consequence of the rise in price of petrol, spuare parts &c. It seems the difficulty of getting down sufficient number of buses has also stood in the way of opening more lines. It is also said that arrangements are being made for the use of charcoal gas for running these buses. It is under these conditions, that the Financial Secretary has anticipated a net profit of Rs. 2·5 lakhs from the scheme. Sir, contrary to our fond expectations the years 1114 and 1115 for which actual figures are now available, ended in a loss. The revised figures for 1116 show an anticipated net revenue of Rs. 63,400 from the scheme, as against Rs. 1,24,000 in the original estimate. But I cannot share the optimism of the Financial Secretary in this respect, in view of our past experience, the present world situation, and the unusually heavy management expenses. This loss could

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have been justified if at least public convenience had been cared for. Overcrowding in the Transport Buses has been from the very beginning a regular complaint. I have actually travelled in one of these buses, with 45 fellow passengers, both males and females. Sir, you can guess from this, what sort of convenience the public gets in these buses. If overcrowding like this cannot be avoided; I would suggest that Mr. Salter may be instructed to provide these buses with hooks, so that the standing passengers, the fifth column in the words of the leader of my party, may be safely hung.

Next comes the Ceramic Factory at Kundara. Sir, it was with very great expectations that this was started. Much has been said about the quality of the clay and the manufactured articles. Presenting the budget for the current year, the then Financial Secretary said

> "After the most careful laboratory tests and comparison carried on in England and India, it has been fully established that the Travancore clay is the best obtained in India so far as fineness, purity, plasticity and whiteness are concerned. This has been amply demonstrated by the interest evinced by many leading importers of English china clay for taking up agency for distribution and marketting of the Travancore China clay, and Government have appointed a reputed firm of traders (Industrial and Agricultural Engineering Company) as their agents for the sale of china clay to the textile mills in India".

We have invested on this scheme above 10 lakhs of rupees. It was estimated last year that the gross receipts from the factory would be more than Rs. 3 lakhs and after meeting the working expenses, a net profit of Rs. 10 lakhs was estimated. But according to the revised estimates the gross receipts fell to Rs. 1.65 lakhs and the net profit to Rs. 25,000. It will be clear from this that the factory has not produced to its full capacity during the current year. This must be either due to want of demand for our articles, or due to the incapacity of the officer in charge of the factory. Now, we are told that we have already secured large orders for the products of this factory and that therefore it is contemplated to increase the productive capacity of the factory, for which provision is made in the next year's budget. Sir, I think it is time for us to pause a while and review the whole situation before we invest any further on this undertaking. Admittedly we have enough raw materials and we have large orders for our finished products. Is it not pertinent to ask why we have not been able to produce to the utmost capacity of the factory? Should we further increase the productive capacity of the factory, when we have not been able to utilise to the maximum the present capacity. Sir, I feel there is something fundamentally wrong in the management of the factory. The public feeling about this will be evident from the large number of interpellations which have been answered on the floor of this House, and which still remain to be answered on this topic.

It is encouraging that both the Rubber Factory as well as the Sugar Eactory have begun to yield a small return under the management of private companies. The next source of revenue is the mineral resources of the State. A sum of Rs. 3 lakhs is being realised annually from the levy of royalty on the export of minerals. During the last three years prospecting for graphite and mica were being carried on in

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[Mr. P. Sivarama Pillai.]

different parts of the State. A sum of Rs. 15,000 has been provided for this item in the next year's budget also. But we are not told what is the result of the work so far done. I do not think we are justified in spending more on this unless the work so far done is satisfactory. I am sorry to note that in spite of repeated representations from the public, sufficient amounts have not been provided for in the budget for proper encouragement of the Ayurvedic system of treatment. Sir, now a days more and more people resort to this system. But we have only one Ayurvedic Hospital at Trivandrum, which I understand is not properly equipped and is therefore unable to cope with the large volume of work. I would therefore urge upon the Government the extreme necessity of providing more accommodation for the same.

A word about the new schemes to increase the revenues of the State. It is gratifying to hear that negotiations are already in progress for the starting of a cement factory and for the manufacture of plywood with in the State. Let me hope that we in the north will also be provided with the luxury of dustless roads with the starting of the cement factory. The levy of a cess on rubber and a small increase on the export duty on tea are steps in the right direction. It is only just and proper that the rubber and tea interests be made to pay a small percentage of their profits instead of increasing the burden of taxation on the poor ryot. That portion of the Financial Secretary's speech dealing with the income from Railway has been, I believe a pleasant surprise to many of us, who have been used to hearing of losses alone from our Railways. The scheme for the demonstration of manufacture of refined jaggery, is a welcome one. Let us hope that the Director of Industries will be able to show good results atleast in this field.

Sir, I can assure you that every Travancorean will be behind the Government in all their efforts towards the success of the Allies in the War and let us hope that ere long out of the present chaos will emerge a new world of peace and contentment.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, I feel it would be churlish to use any language but that of commendation of a budget statement, in which the Financial Secretary has, for the first time, deliberately thrust the book keeping aspects of his task *i. e.* to say the summation of revenue and expenditure into a corner of his speech and devoted himself to a survey of the financial and economic position of the country as a whole. He has, for the first time, attempted to arrive at the amount of taxation to be imposed, not on the principle of "think of a number", but by working out the economic need for new taxes. The Financial Secretary has incorporated in his budget, measures designed to create economic conditions, in which his estimates will have a chance to come true. These are indeed enormous gains, on which the Financial Secretary is to be congratulated without reserve. There may well be disagreement with his estimates or proposals. But, for the first time after the beginning of the war, I am

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glad to say, there is a real budget to comment on. Sir, it is a relief to find that the Financial Secretary has adopted a fairly wholesome principle in increasing the existing indirect taxes and imposing new ones. The people should, indeed, be indebted to the Government in not increasing the rates of income tax and not touching upon sources, such as excess profits tax and sales tax as is done in British India. I wish Government will continue this principle of taxation in future also. Sir, it is really a source of much comfort to find that not a penny has been added in the rate of income tax.

In this connection, I may remind the House that there are other export commodities in Travancore which could stand indirect taxation. I sincerely hope that Government will tackle in future the possibilities of obtaining such kinds of indirect taxes before they consider the increase of income tax and the imposition of taxes as sales tax and excess profits tax. The imposition of taxes such as the latter will certainly tend to exhaust the liquid resources of the industrial and commercial undertaking and will, therefore, leave the latter in a weakened position for adjusting themselves to peace time production and sale. It is on this principle that the recent British budget has provided for a system of post-war rebates.

In regard to rubber, there was an export cess existing in Ceylon for years past. Till now, the Government of Travancore did not levy any cess on rubber. It is only now in the history of rubber plantation in this country that a nominal cess has been imposed. It is a welcome proposal. As regards the duty on tea, it is equally good. It is only a small increase from Re. 1-8-0 to Rs. 2 per 100 lbs.

Sir, when I consider the question of the new export cess imposed upon one of our important commercial commodities, I have to bring to the notice of the Government and this honourable House certain difficulties that have come upon the exporters, shippers and handlers of rubber. Probably this honourable House is aware of the steps taken by the Government of the United States in controlling the import of rubber into that country from the producing territories. Although we are intimately connected for our export trade with the United Kingdom, most of our rubber is exported to the United States. Now according to the present control put upon the importation of rubber by the United States, no private agency is allowed to import rubber in the United States and the import of rubber is being controlled by a new Corporation established for that purpose by the Government. Sir, the normal quantity of rubber imported in to the United States has been cut down by 20 percent. The remaining 80% of rubber is bought by this Corporation and freight, insurance and payment will be arranged by this Corporation.

We now understand that the Corporation, with the approval of the Government, has decided to buy rubber from the Far East on F. O. B. Colombo terms. This means, Sir, that the Travancore exporter of rubber to the United States is to take his rubber from Travancore and put on board the steamer at Colombo. I ask, Sir, whether this

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[Mr. K. C. Karunakaran.]

is a practical scheme and how far we are going to keep alive the direct export trade in rubber we that have with great difficulty established with the United States.

PRESIDENT: Nothing has been decided yet. In respect of possible demands of the United States of America for mineral sands from Travancore, steps are being taken to see that shipping is made available for the export of local products like rubber. The matter is still being discussed, but I think it is as well I should mention there are these possibilities. I do not want any one to go away with the idea that any day success is certain. But the possibility is that there are certain products in Travancore and of Travancore which the United States may require and it would be to the advantage of every body that dollar exchange is strengthened by such arrangement of establishing from here outward and for establishing from the Unted States commodities that might be required here.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN: I thank you, Sir, for your kind assurance.

Sir, we still realise that it is through your influence in quarters, which are unapproachable to people like us, that we have been able to get freight for our coir goods from the Malabar Ports to the United Kingdom. It is through your influence, Sir, that some time ago the Government and the Steamship Company alloted 45 per cent. of the normal pre-war tonnage for our coir goods to United Kingdom. Now we hear that this 45 per cent. is reduced to 25 per cent. That means, Sir, that we have to reduce our activities in the biggest industry of the State from 100 to 25 per cent. We again, Sir, look up to you for help and appeal to you for helping us immediately and atonce.

This honourable House will be glad to know the contents of a telegram just now I have received from our Mats and Matting Association at Alleppey. We have been offered by the War Supply Department a very large order for coir mattings for war purpose. Sir, we now begin to enjoy the fruit of the labours of the Dewan of Travancore and I fully trust that this is only the beginning.

PRESIDENT: Make sure of the order before announcement.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, whether the Association gets the order or not this particular article is required by the War Supply Department and that should go to Travancore. Sir, this present order will give employment for three or four months and I know that this will afford great relief to places like Alleppey and Shertalai.

Sir, I also congratulate the Government on the immediate steps they have taken to ease the situation relating to the cashewnut industry. An embargo was laid on the importation of raw cashewnuts from Portuguese East Africa to India. In trying to ease the situation in regard to the import of raw cashews into Travancore, you have eased the situation in other parts of India also.

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Sir, in your statement the other day, you were asking the industrial and commercial community to come forward and utilise this time for creating new industries and developing the existing industries. Sir, there are people, who are ready to take up any practical suggestion and advice coming from Government. But the industrial and commercial community are unable to understand the implications contained in the advices broadcast by gentlemen like my honourable friend Mr. K. G. Kunjukrishna Pillai in places like this Hall and outside. Sir, the present economic community of Travancore, which safeguards the economic interests of the State, generally require no such broadcasting advices. On the other hand, Sir, we require the practical demonstration of the help of men like Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai in financing the industry and commerce indirectly and giving us advices privately and secretly. These open advices to us, we consider, Sir, have to go without any effect.

Sir, in this connection, I have to place before this honourable House certain facts with regard to the new industry, which you have prompted us to start.

Sir, the industry which you asked us to take up was the conversion of raw coconut shell into charcoal. This was a new industry and on your suggestion and advice some of us came forward and invested our money in an industsy and prepared to take the maximum risk. It will be interesting to this honourable House to know that we have supplied to this Government 16,000 tons of charcoal. In order to make this quantity we had to burn about 62 crores of coconut shells. Sir, this is an important war material and the Government of India after trying everywhere approached the Travancore Government. Sir, I know personally this fact; that had it not been for your personal interest, your personal influence, with very high authorities connected with the Government of India, this order for 16,000 tons of charcoal would have gone to Ceylon. Sir, I do remember the hours you spent with the representative of the War Supply Department of the Government of India for this business in the Taj Mahal Hotel at Bombay.

PRESIDENT: Order, order.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, knowing as you do the possibilities of the industrial and commercial ventures at this war time, you suggested to the men engaged in the most important industry of Travancore to organise themselves to deal with the Supply Department. Sir, they have taken up your wise advice and according to the proposals you have laid down, we have started the Travancore Coir Mats and Matting Manufacturers' Association to deal with the orders for coir goods required by the Supply Department. Sir, this Association is grateful to you for the unconditional guarantee you have given to the Government of India on behalf of the Association. Again, Sir, you have suggested to us to form a War Supplies Syndicate and knowing as we do your keen interest in the industrialisation and the commercial schemes of Travancore, we readily accepted your advice and this War Supplies Syndicate is now functioning here at Trivandrum, furnishing

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information to people, who are prepared to enter into new avenues of industry and trade. Sir, these are great and beneficial blessings which you have now done for the country's economy. We are grateful to you, Sir.

Sir, I now draw your attention to another important point which should engage the attention of the Government in the most serious way possible. The honourable House and the Government are aware that shipping on the Malabar Coast to The United Kingdom is being controlled by a couple of Lines under what is called Conference Lines through a system of what is known as deferred rebates. Till the declaration of this war, the shipping from the Malabar Coast to the United States was also in the hands of a couple of Lines, which enjoyed the entire monopoly of the shipping trade. Sir, the position with regard to the shipment from the Malabar Coast to the United Kingdom remains the same. But the position with regard to the United States has become changed. The shipment to the United States is now being catered by chartered steamers putting up their own rates of freight. I ask very seriously why the same change is not effected with regard to the shipment from the Malabar Coast to the United Kingdom. Sir, this monopoly of shipping trade from the Malabar Coast to the United Kingdom should be tackled immediately and seriously by this Government. I take this opportunity of drawing your personal attention and the attention of the Government to the report published some ten years ago by the Government of Ceylon on shipping and deferred rebate system. That report was a patriotic one, putting forth the reasons for doing away with the monopoly system of shipping and what is called the deferred rebate system. Sir, this is the time to take up this question and see that our Ports are also enabled to have steamers of all nations flying different flags.

Sir, I have to say a word with regard to Labour. The recent Labour crisis at Alleppey is fortunately settled by the representatives of employers and employees sitting together. Sir, this time the industry and the trade have lost much on account of the differences that existed between the factory owners and the Union. The Government interfered ; the Inspector-General of Police and the Commissioner of Labour have spent days and days together at Alleppey to bring about a settlement of the disputes. Sir, both sides were not in a position then to come to a satisfactory settlement. The employers stuck on to their ideas of disputes and the labourers refused to move from the standpoint they took from the beginning. Every attempt failed. The Government nominated a committee presided over by a Governmental Chairman in order to settle the dispute. When the employers have been informed that the Government are nominating a committee and appointing their own man for the settlement of the dispute, we the representatives of the employers thought that there is a limit to allow the Government to interfere with the domestic relationship existing between the employee and the employer and they decided to settle the dispute without the Governmental interference. Sir, after various

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talks and discussions the wise employers thought that it would not be wise on their part to leave the settlement of the differences between the employees and themselves to some outsider. The representatives of the employers intelligently anticipated the difficulties that would come if there is no feeling of sincerity and personal regard between the employees and the employers. So they decided to forget for the time being the wise traditions under which they have built up the industry and trade here. Sir, the wise employers thought it better for them to forget their watch word of "the inevitability of gradualness" which is the foundation for the industrial and commercial supremacy of England. Sir, this great watch word of the Fabians has been forgotten by the employers for the time being. Sir, we believe always in the evolutionary process in socio-economic problems. We never believed in realising our ideas by violent convulsions. On the other hand, Sir, we always believed in gradual changes and adjustments. We have paid out to the labourers a huge amount for the work done about six or seven months ago. Sir, we have appreciated the Government communique issued soon after the settlement of the dispute. I say all these things because I want, Sir, that this honourable House and the Government to understand that we have made this compromise with the representatives of employees not out of fear or threat, but by realising the fact that our watch word in industry and trade cannot enjoy the same position as it did in the past. Sir, I want the Labour to understand this aspect and then I am satisfied. It is a matter for congratulation that the employees and employers have come together and we have now formed a voluntary association under the name, the Industrial Relations Committee to settle any future dispute that may arise between the employers and employees.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member has two minutes more.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, before I finish I like to draw your attention to one or two matters. Sir, the Banking Enquiry Committee recommended the extreme necessity of putting the weights and measures of the country on a uniform basis. We feel the urgency of this when we are dealing with the Government of India orders. This is a matter which should engage the attention of the Government immediately.

With regard to the estimate of rubber export cess, I do not find my way to agree with the estimate of the Financial Secretary. Sir, the production of rubber in this country will come to about 18 to 20 thousand tons per year and we have to put aside about 8000 tons for consumption in the Indian markets. With difficulties now before us with regard to our export trade to the United States, I do not think the Government can realise an income of 4 lakhs of rupees anticipated under rubber export cess.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member has one minute more.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, I find that the year 1115 closed with a deficit of Rs. 5,7 lakhs; the year 1116 is estimated to close with a surplus of 5·48 lakhs and the year under review is anticipated to yield a surplus of 15 lakhs. Sir, I am confident that if the estimates

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of the Financial Secretary are not affected by any unforeseen circumstances, this years's budget will contribute to strengthen the financial and economic stability of this country.

(At this stage the President left the Hall and the Deputy President took the chair).

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: Sir, I wish to express my appreciation of the budget before the House. This is the fifth budget that we are considering. Experience of the four former budgets we had occasion to discuss has convinced us that the financial position of our State is absolutely sound. From the figures given in the budget memorandum for the last 25 years it can be seen that the financial condition of our State has been entirely satisfactory. The budget memorandum accompanying the budget is a novel feature of this year and is indeed helpful to learn the budget and the financial policy. The Government in spite of the difficulties they had to encounter, in spite of the big schemes which they undertook, during past years, were able to meet all the needs of the people as and when they came from year to year. The Financial Secretary has rightly quoted from an eminent journalist and I have no hesitation in joining with him to gladly repeat that quotation namely, "Thanks to the unsparing labours of a brilliant Dewan in the person of Sir, C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, the liberal sympathies of a young Maharaja and the guiding spirit of an illustrious Queen Mother, the State has, of late been progressing by leaps and bounds in many directions of a well-planned economy". Sir, Financial Secretaries have been changing from time to time but we have been fortunate enough in having at the head of the administration to guide us an all round and far-sighted Dewan assisted by a cautious Chief Secretary in the person of Rajyasevapravina M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar.

Sir, I refrain from entering into a detailed criticism with regard to the budget. I am not concerned whether the balance figure of the budget turns to the right side or to the left. I am concerned only with the stability of the finance. Taking that as the criterion I leave the figures and I have only to say that there is no room for any anxiety as long as the financial position is in the hands of our trusted Dewan. We find from the budget that sufficient reserve money is kept in the hands of Government to meet any emergency that may arise. We know that the Government has not left out of account the serious situations or emergencies which may arise on account of the present World War. We have very many sources of wealth like, the Forests and the Financial Secretary has rightly observed that "our revenue has never been static or inelastic, nor our expenditure on matters of public utility, meagre or stinted." There are only certain minor matters which I wish to place before this House by way comment. One is with regard to the Transport Department. This morning, in reply to an interpellation, the Transport Director said that there are about 14 Checking Inspectors posted for a distance of 96 miles, although according to him the usual number of miles

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allotted to a Checking Inspector is only 16. According to his own calculation only 6 Checking Inspectors are necessary. But we find that on the line from Kottayam to Trivandrum, for 96 miles, 14 Checking Inspectors are posted. That, certainly, is an excessive and unnecessary item of expenditure.

I take that only as an illustration of the top heavy system of that department. If a comparison is made of the clerical staff of that department with the staff of the Account Office or any other bigger office it would be seen that there is an over-manning of the staff in this department which adds to the expenditure enormously and unnecessarily. And it is imperative to disband such clerks who are found unnecessary and if it is done there will be an appreciable increase in the net profit which the Department would yield. The Department apparently seems to be a very profitable concern. But according to the budget and according to the statements contained in the annual report of the Department, we find that that the figures given there show otherwise and are therefore not at all convincing. Indeed something is wrong somewhere in the system. I suggest that a proper enquiry may be made to see whether some reorganisation of the staff with a view to reduction is not possible. Sir, there is the Advisory Board attached to the Department. It appears that they are expected to give only advice. If an independent and separate commission of enquiry is not needed, at least the Advisory Board itself may be asked to enquire into the matter to see whether any proper reduction cannot be made in the present expenditure of the Department.

Sir, with regard to the Pallivasal Scheme I am glad to know that it is the idea of the Government to develop the scheme further and increase its yield as far as possible. With regard to agriculture we find that the Government is interested in making the State self-sufficient in paddy for the welfare of the people by encouraging intensive cultivation chiefly by the aid of the power generated from Pallivasal. They are trying to cultivate lands by lift irrigation and other processes. Now, to make this a success co-operation of the people and the officers of several departments is necessary. What I would suggest is that the Director of Agriculture should see that his officers really and effectively co-operate with the people and with the officers of other departments whose functions can be co-ordinated for this purpose.

Now, the cyclone which occurred recently in the northern parts of the State has particularly affected the taluks of Parur, Kunnattnad, Muvattupuzha and Devicolam. It is a matter for regret that Government have only attended to the relief of only some of these taluks leaving out Muvattupuzha. In this taluk the banana cultivators are particularly affected by the cyclone. For them this cultivation is the sole source of income for an year to meet their livelihood If the crops of a particular season fail they will have to starve. Therefore, it is my humble submission that these poor people should also be benefited by the relief measures.

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MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI : What about the cultivators of the Palayanthodan plantains ?

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM : In Muvattupuzha and in those northern parts Palayanthodan cultivation is scarce. But banana is cultivated on large scale and it is a commercial crop. And the cost of cultivation of banana is very much higher than the cost of cultivation of any other variety of plantain. Bananas of course form a main item of food during the Thiru Onam festivities in Chingom. They usually get ripe by Onam days. This year the cyclone devastations happened when the bananas were about to mature. The loss therefore was intense and severely felt by the ryots. So, Sir, with regard to the taluk of Muvattupuzha my submission is that relief should be given to the banana cultivators.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Tha honourable member has one minute more.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM : Sir, I wish to speak a word or two with regard to the duty which is proposed to be levied on tea and rubber. Sir, I commend the action of Government in this respect, for the new cess on rubber exports and the increased duty on tea exports affect only the people who can well afford to pay them without any grudge or demur. In all these matters as I said before the co-operation of the people and the Government is absolutely necessary. To secure this co-operation Government should always be vigilant in appointing as their officers only persons who have real sympathy for the people and can elicit in return their co-operation. With these words and thanking the Financial Secretary for presenting a surpuls budget I take my seat.

MR. G. VELU PILLAI : Sir, let me also begin in the orthodox-fashion by complimenting the Financial Secretary for the presentation of a surplus budget. But on closer scrutiny we can see that many of the items of revenue have rather been exaggerated. On a careful analysis it would be seen that the budget is neither a budget of prosperity nor a budget of despair. It is, so to say, a carrying on budget. Before beginning to speak on the budget proper, let me state one or two facts for the consideration of the house. One matter has already been dealt with by Mr. T. P. Velayudhan Pillai. Sir, budgeting has now becomes almost a fine art. It is a very difficult and technical matter and the Financial Secretary who is generally an expert in the art, with the assistance of his staff, takes three or four months' time to prepare the budget. But we, members are given only two days to study the same; wading through the intricacies of the figures and other details is not an easy matter. Sir, my submission is that two days' time is too short for us to study the budget, and I request that the time allotted may be extended.

Another matter which I want to bring to the notice of this House is this. As members of the Legislature we have often to refer to some authoritative books on matters of State. I am not unaware of the fact

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that we have a State Manual at present written by late Mr. Nagamiah. Government themselves thought that it is a very old document written 30 or 35 years ago and required revision. The revision of the State Manual was entrusted to one of the ablest men in the State, a former Deputy President of this Assembly. He had a big staff under him and we have voted large sums of expenditure in connection with the same. But I am sorry to say that we do not yet know whether the work is finished or not. If it is finished, we request that copies may be supplied to us without delay. If not, Government will be pleased to enquire why the preparation is being delayed.

Now, coming to the budget proper, I must say, Sir, that the Financial Secretary is rather optimistic in many of his forecasts. He himself says that the atmosphere is surcharged with the calamitous effects of a devastating war, and we see no signs of relief in the near future. The condition of the ryots is deplorable indeed. The prices of copra and coir are going down every day whereas the prices of food stuffs and of the necessities of life are mounting high. I hope Government would do something more to stop this sudden increase in the prices of the articles of daily necessities.

Coming on to certain items in the budget, for land customs, the estimate for 1117 shows an increase of Rs. 5 lakhs over the revised estimates for the current year and for sea customs an increase of more than Rs. one lakh is expected. In spite of the imposition of duty on tea, cardamom and rubber, I fail to see how a rise in the land customs can be expected because with regard to other products which go to swell land customs the buying capacity of the people both inside and outside the State are daily decreasing. Similarly the revenue from sea customs is likely to decrease because of shipping difficulties.

With regard to the revenue from Excise an increase of 1½ lakhs is expected this year. The explanation for this increase is peculiar. The Financial Secretary says that the decrease in the revised estimate for 1116 is due to a fall in the consumption due to general economic depression. But the estimate for the next year is higher still and the Financial Secretary does not give any reason for expecting an increase. Does he expect a brightening of our economic position in so short a time? I fear he does not. If he does, the opening paragraph of his speech will itself disprove his belief.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order. Order. The House will now adjourn to meet again at 11 A. M. tomorrow.

Trivandrum, V. S. ARUMUKHOM PILLAI,
Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.

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